

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Latin America*

Vol VI No 230

29 November 1978

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Reportage Continues on LAES Conference	A 1
Argentina Seeks Sanctions	A 1
Key Document Drafted	A 1
ORIT Declares Boycott Against Chile, Nicaragua, Cuba	A 2

ARGENTINA

Official Explains Advantages of Mid-Parana Dams	B 1
---	-----

BRAZIL

Presidential Spokesman Analyzes Elections [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 21 Nov]	D 1
Finance Minister Announces Anti-Inflation Measures	D 2

CHILE

Economy Minister Outlines Status of Nation's Economy	E 1
Government Denounces ORIT Boycott as 'Irrational'	E 2
Restrictions on Night Traffic Reduced	E 2
Bomb Damages Home of Supreme Court President	E 3
Briefs: Exports Surpass \$2 Billion; Ships in Puerto Williams; Students Return to Class	E 3

COLOMBIA

Turbay Speaks on Decentralization, Security Measures	F 1
ECOPETROL President Defends Government's Energy Policies	F 2
Three FARC Guerrillas Killed in Santander Department	F 2

ECUADOR

FLSN Member Opens Solidarity Week With Nicaragua	G 1
V.P. Candidate Hails Bolivian Coup, Anti-Somoza Struggle	G 1
Parties Said Trying To Hinder Democratization	G 2

PARAGUAY

USSR Faces Difficulty in Yacyreta Bidding [LA TRIBUNA 20 Nov]	H 1
Human Rights Seen as Reason for USSR MIGs to Cuba [LA TRIBUNA 19 Nov]	H 2
ULTIMA HORA Says U.S. Cannot Trust Soviets [20 Nov]	H 2
Briefs: Inquiry on Missing Persons; Labor Conference Delegation	H 3

PERU

Further Reportage on Spanish Monarchs' Visit J 1
Agreements Signed J 1
King and Queen Depart J 1
Minister Silva Rute Comments on Nation's Foreign Debt J 1

URUGUAY

Folle-Martinez Meets With Argentine Foreign Minister K 1
Briefs: Microwave System; New Ambassador to El Salvador K 2

VENEZUELA

Consalvi Calls for OAS Measures Against Nicaragua L 1
Defense Minister Speaks on Elections, Purchase of Frigates L 1
Electoral Council Denies Resignation of Members L 1
Presidential Candidate Arria Accused of Embezzlement L 2
Commentator Assails Extremists in Venezuela L 2
Light Crude Deposit Discovered in Lake Maracaibo L 3
Briefs: Aluminum to Japan L 3

PANAMA

Government Denies Providing Military Aid to Sandinists N 1
'Commander Mao' Says FSLN Hopes for Peaceful Solution N 1
Ortiz Accuses Government of Censorship N 1
Further on Brigade's Activities N 2
Commentary Calls for Internationalizing Nicaraguan Struggle N 3
Columnist Plays U.S. Central American Policy N 4
[MATUTINO 23 Nov]
Royo Promotes Ideological Pluralism in Chiriqui Speech N 5
Ahumada, Others Comment on PRD Financing N 6
[CRITICA 17 Nov]
Briefs: New Ambassador to OAS; Cuba Accepts New Ambassador; N 7
New Argentine, UK Ambassadors

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Carazo Defines Position on Extragovernmental Recruitment P 1
Legislative Assembly Restricts Military Expenditures P 2
Peasants Moving Away From Nicaraguan Border Area P 2
Radio Reloj Comments on OAS Mediators' Failure P 2
Briefs: Agricultural Credit Figures; Discovery of Mineral Resources; P 3
United Brand's Policy

EL SALVADOR

Subversives, Police Clash; Four Persons Killed P 4

GUATEMALA

Embassy in Costa Rica To Handle Nicaraguan Affairs P 4
Briefs: Mines Official Appointed; CONDECA Representative; Monetary P 4
Council; New Ambassadors; Mines Secretary, Posts Official

NICARAGUA

Somosa Rejects Any Possibility of Leaving Power Before 1981	P 5
FAO To Study Mediation Commission Proposal, Ultimatum	P 6
Defense Minister Criticizes Costa Rica, Venezuela, Panama	P 7
Spokesman Refutes Reports on National Guard Casualties	P 7
Economic Situation 'Worst' in Country's History	P 8
Briefs: Ambassador to Guatemala; Military Court Change	P 9

CUBA

Link Suggested Between People's Temple Leader, CIA	Q 1
Jamaica Reports Cuban Criticism of Amnesty International [Kingston]	Q 1
Statement by Roa Kouri Supports POLISARIO	Q 1
U.S. Human Rights Pronouncements Criticized	Q 2
Related Comments	Q 2
Angolan Leader Visits Committees for Finance, Prices	Q 2
Agreement Signed With Angolan Culture Authorities	Q 3
Sao Tome and Principe Official Visits CDR Offices	Q 3
Interview Granted by President Pinto da Costa	Q 3
Fidel Castro Bids Farewell to Sao Tome and Principe Delegation	Q 4
Benin Military Delegation Arrives for Visit	Q 4
Talks Held	Q 4
ICAP Hosts Solidarity Activity With Ethiopia	Q 5
14th CTC Congress Commences in Havana	Q 5
Culture Minister Attends	Q 5
WFTU Leader Praises Congress	Q 5
Report on Congress Opening	Q 6
Soviet Delegate Speaks	Q 8
Pastorino, Hoffmann Address Congress	Q 8
Widow of Salvador Allende Leaves for Mexico	Q 8

CARIBBEAN

Columnist Examines Issue of MiG-23's Cuba	S 1
[DAILY GLEANER 24 Nov]	
Ruling People's National Party Sweeps byelections	S 2
[DAILY GLEANER 24 Nov]	

OTHER COUNTRIES

BOLIVIA

Admiral Maesse Roca Named New Navy Commander	V 1
Gaston Lupo Sworn In as Air Force Commander	V 1

GUYANA

\$2-Million Timber Contract Signed With PRC	V 1
[GUYANA CHRONICLE 17 Nov]	

REPORTAGE CONTINUES ON LAES CONFERENCE

Argentina Seeks Sanctions

PY230203Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2115 GMT 22 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Punta del Este, 22 Nov (TELAM-EFE)--Argentina today proposed at the Latin American Economic System [LAES] meeting, which is taking place in this city, the adoption of severe measures in answer to protectionist measures adopted by the EEC.

By a project recommendation released to the delegations which participated in the LAES meeting, Argentina proposes the implementation of a policy of even-handed treatment with the EEC.

The project presented by the Argentine delegation consists of stopping some EEC imports when this organization asks for self-limitation of some industrial export products from Latin American countries.

A commission designated today in Punta del Este will issue a final document to be presented to the executive council of LAES, whose members are at the ministerial level.

Key Document Drafted

PY231355Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0103 GMT 23 Nov 78 PY

[By Robert Mainard]

[Text] Punta del Este, Uruguay, 22 Nov (AFP)--It was learned here today that the Latin American Economic System [LAES] has arrived at the conclusion that Latin America and the EEC will find a principle for their relationship only through dialog and cooperation.

A work commission made up of all countries attending this consultative meeting established those principles and guidelines of a Latin American policy toward the EEC which will be submitted to the LAES Council of Ministers.

Sources close to the conference noted that the position of Latin America is contained in seven points drafted by the LAES secretariat itself and stripped of any roughness to create the best possible conditions for a dialog with the EEC.

It was learned that this document establishes that the desire for cooperation and dialog between the two blocs must be compatible with similar efforts of cooperation with other developed countries and with the cooperation of other developing countries.

Latin America will continue to belong to the Third World, with the intention of strengthening the position of developing countries in international negotiations aimed at establishing a new economic order.

The LAES countries also agreed that the cooperation policy which they promote with the EEC is based on the identification of medium-term and long-term areas of interest having equitable advantages for the two parties.

They understand that this is a task involving broad, complex and coordinated cooperation which must encompass trade, financing, investments, technical assistance and transfer of technology.

The program of cooperation between Latin America and the EEC must consider the different levels of development of Latin American countries, such as Haiti, or those of relatively minor development, such as Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The work meeting concluded that this will allow the degree of flexibility necessary to benefit all the countries of the region.

As for industrial cooperation, both at the international and regional level, and regarding exchange of manufactured products, LAES believes that this must be an important topic in the economic negotiations between Latin America and the EEC.

The government representatives attending this consultative meeting will reportedly mention their concern over the increase of EEC protectionist measures which obstruct the efforts of Latin America to improve its productive structure.

From what was learned from this meeting, held behind closed doors, the Argentine proposal to use measures of force against the EEC was not considered, but this proposal may be included in an annex.

It is very likely that the agreement achieved this afternoon will not undergo any basic modification during study at the plenary meeting. Furthermore, it is also very likely that this draft document will be included as it stands in the final report to be submitted to the LAES Council of Ministers, which is to meet in Caracas in April.

ORIT DECLARES BOYCOTT AGAINST CHILE, NICARAGUA, CUBA

PA270343Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0059 GMT 27 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 26 Nov (LATIN)--The executive committee of the Regional Inter-American Labor Organization [ORIT] tonight agreed to declare a boycott of all freight going to or coming from Chile, Nicaragua and Cuba by air, sea or land. The resolution said that the decision will be carried out in defense of the human and labor rights of the workers of those countries since "these have been systematically and brutally repressed by their dictatorial governments."

OFFICIAL EXPLAINS ADVANTAGES OF MID-PARANA DAMS

PY221738Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0655 GMT 22 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Nov (TELAM)--Mario Beretta, the chief of middle Parana studies and projects and official of the water and power company, yesterday stated that if the two multiple-purpose plants planned for this stretch of the river are built, they would be the world's most important plants having less than 15 meters of waterhead.

He said that the northern one would have an installed potential of 2.3 million kilowatts and the southern project a capacity of 3.3 million kilowatts, with a waterhead of 14 and 14.5 meters respectively.

He emphasized that through an agreement signed yesterday with a Soviet consultant, a 2-year study of the southern project will be made before calling for bids.

The middle Parana's average waterflow is 16,000 cubic meters per second, and its potential energy reaches 40 billion kilowatts, he explained. Approximately 83 percent of this amount, or about 33,000 kilowatts/year [figures as received] can be taken advantage of through turbines and generators.

In making a comparison with conventional thermoelectric plants, Beretta said that in order to reach the production which the two projects would have together, about 8.3 million cubic meters of fuel oil would have to be burned. This is one-third of Argentina's oil production.

He emphasized that, in addition to their energy generating capacity, the projects would permit navigation up to the city of Corrientes for ships of 21 foot (6.4 meter) draught, weighing from 20,000 to 25,000 tons.

At the same time, he added, 500,000 hectares of agricultural land on the Santa Fe coast which are now flooded would be recovered thanks to the construction of a lateral dam extending 200 kilometers. This would also permit the irrigation of another 200,000 hectares.

Asked about the number of turbines which the two plants would have, Beretta explained that there are two draft projects for the southern plant--one with 24 conventional vertical axis turbines, and another with 36 horizontal axis turbines. Even though the generating capacity of both proposals is the same, the second one costs a total of 5 percent less.

The official estimated that energy needs in the year 2000 will reach 200 billion kilowatts, and we are now producing 27 billion. He stated that this need has to be met. From the point of view of hydroelectric capacity, Argentina is exploiting only 4 percent of what it has.

These remarks were made during the program Proyecto 2000, broadcast last night on Channel 7.

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN ANALYZES ELECTIONS

FY271927Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Nov 78 p 4 FY

[Excerpts] During his daily meeting with the press, presidential spokesman Col Rubem Ludwig said yesterday that "President Geisel is following the final phase of vote counting after the 15 November elections calmly, and he is satisfied with the results, which confirm the government's expectations. The National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] will elect 14 or 15 senators and the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] 8 or 9, reversing the 1974 results in which 16 MDB senators and only 6 ARENA senators were elected. ARENA will have a majority in 19 of 22 legislative assemblies, as well as in 19 of 22 state blocs in the Federal Chamber of Deputies." During yesterday's meeting, Ludwig denied again that the government is thinking of disbanding the two existing political parties. "I believe that the government never thought about it," Ludwig said, adding that there is a possibility that new parties will be created by virtue of the political reforms which will become effective 1 January.

Ludwig, however, denied that the government will either promote or encourage the creation of new parties. "The initiative in that field does not belong to the government," he said, and proceeded to deny also that Gen Golbery do Couto e Silva, chief of the civilian household, might be involved--as has been reported--in negotiations leading to the creation of a new party. Ludwig added: "He does not know a thing about that." The presidential spokesman then said that the idea of adopting the district vote in Brazil is up for debate.

The presidential spokesman also refuted allegations that the votes the MDB gained in large urban centers should be more "significant" because they were cast by more "knowledgeable" people. In the first place, he pointed out, "all states are equally important as far as the government is concerned because this is inherent in the federal principle. Does the opposition think differently? Is a senator for Rio de Janeiro more important than a senator for Sergipe?" Moreover, he said, the city voters are under too many pressures, enticements and frustrations. They live besieged by personal problems, social problems, and unfulfilled aspirations; by problems which are natural in large urban centers, problems which the government has been trying to solve but which are not easy to solve. The vote is the reflection of all of these factors. The elector unloads his problems on the government, "which has broad shoulders."

In addition to all those pressures, the urban voter--according to Colonel Ludwig--was influenced by "the seductive sirens that sang their daily criticism of the government, sneering at the actions of government officials. Would I be wrong to call that psychological pressure?"

Asked then if he considered the news carried by the press as "biased," Colonel Ludwig replied that "many things, many people and many facts can cause bias--including the press, because nobody can deny the importance of the press in influencing a political or cultural process." Afterwards, during a casual talk with journalists, the colonel pointedly mentioned O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO and FOLHA DA TARDE as being particularly critical of the government and, therefore, capable of influencing public opinion. He believes that many journalists use their writings as outlets for their "social problems, distorted motivations, and undoubtedly as their psychological scapegoat. "All of this exerts its influence."

Still talking about the voting in the large urban centers, Colonel Ludwig posed the opposite proposition to the journalists: "If ARENA had won a majority in only 3 states and the MDB in 19, what would be the interpretation of the result? [paragraph continues]

"Could not someone argue that the results were an endorsement of the government's urban projects, such as overpasses, subways, etc., built at the expense of neglecting the rural areas? Nineteen legislative assemblies and 19 state blocs in the Federal Chamber of Deputies would have then opposed the government in view of that neglect. But since the opposite occurred, this proved that the government is really looking after the rural areas. When that man who leads a calm small-city life, a sweet life--as the poets who left their small cities for the large urban centers would say--sees that streets are being paved, that there is phone service, that there is water supply, that he is living free from the large city pressures, pollution and frustrations, then he realizes that his living standard has improved and he expresses this through his vote. Now, to say that that vote comes from Brazil's boondocks, from poorly informed men, seems to me to be equivalent to denying the importance of those people--the importance which the government has always recognized in them."

As for the reasons for the MDB growth, Colonel Ludwig said that it is not up to him to make an analysis which should be done by experts, not by a press advisor such as he. In addition, he believes that it is still too soon to tell how much that growth was. He observed that the two states where the MDB had the heaviest voting, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, are not typical cases "because their cases are different from those of the other 20 states and the territories of the federation."

FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES ANTI-INFLATION MEASURES

FY221429Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 22 Nov 78 PY

[Text] The Brazilian finance minister tonight disclosed a package of anti-inflationary measures which must be approved tomorrow by the national monetary council.

At the domestic level, the Banco do Brasil will not release new loans, decreasing the allotments of the general loans department and restricting the renewal of notes of payment [titulos]. In the specific case of negotiable copies of invoices [duplicatas], the tying down of revolving credit can be applied only up to 50 percent, and this will especially affect small and medium sized enterprises. Only the agricultural line of credit will remain open to new loans, but the total amount of loans granted must not surpass 3 million cruzeiros until the end of the year.

At the foreign level, the cruzeiros in foreign loans frozen at the Central Bank will be freed in the following manner: 20 percent on the day the freeze period is over, 40 percent 30 days later, and the remaining 40 percent after another 30 days. This measure will apply not only to state enterprises but also to private enterprises, among which banks are a majority.

Out of the \$1.4 billion which will be freed between tomorrow and the end of the year, only \$400 million will be paid in the next 2 months. The minimum amortization period for foreign loans will be extended from 5 to 8 years. This will especially affect private enterprises because the state-owned enterprises have obtained loans payable in periods of 10 to 15 years. In 1979, state-owned enterprises' access to financial markets will be restricted to a little less than \$300 million per month.

According to Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen, these measures guarantee a rationing of credit and will reduce the means of payment by approximately 35 billion cruzeiros. According to the minister, if these measures were not taken, the means of payment would grow 59 percent this year, and the goal is to keep expansion at around 38 percent.

ECONOMY MINISTER OUTLINES STATUS OF NATION'S ECONOMY

PY222346Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 22 Nov 78 PY

[Excerpts] Economy Minister Pablo Baraona Urzua announced that the fight against inflation will continue to be the government's top priority in the economic sector and that the country's growth will increase and inflation will decrease during 1979.

In his talk to those attending a seminar on Chile's socioeconomic development, Baraona emphasized the importance of long term plans in the government's overall policy, whether they be economic, political or social plans, and that some economic goals had been achieved during 1978.

[Begin Baraona recording] Regarding inflation, as was forecast, we will have an inflation rate of approximately 30 percent this year [words indistinct] a yearly rate of 6 percent.

Regarding the balance of payments, we can say that the country has never had such a solid balance of payments. The international reserve level is a solid record even when making corrections because of the dollar's devaluation.

As you know, noncopper exports are approximately 25 to 30 percent per year and are systematically increasing; therefore, our dependency on copper exports will continue to decrease.

Tax management is orderly today. Private enterprises are also well managed and the fiscal sector's deficit is very low. This is explained in large by the decrease in the price of copper.

Therefore the immediate problems we had in 1973 have been overcome.

This government has never interfered in the capital market or in the assignment of loans, such as was done before in certain government offices. This government has approved a statute for foreign investment which does not even allow the government itself to negotiate. It simply proposes the rules of the game in Chile to the foreign investor. If he likes them, all to the good; if he does not, then bad luck, because we are not going to change them.

This government, which has implemented tax reform and which has eliminated practically all exemptions, now allows you Chileans to pay taxes as you did before.

Can it be understood how a government, which is called an atrocious dictatorship, has renounced the tools to control the population used by some strong governments and by others abroad which call themselves democratic? (Of course it can), because this government has the objective of creating new institutions. [end recording]

Baraona also emphasized that with the new economic framework which is being implemented, the growth rate in the future will be much larger. He indicated that the worst has been overcome, but there are still certain matters to be undertaken.

One of the people attending the seminar indicated that the current economic policy has harmed the middle class. The minister stated that this is an argument which is used by the government's adversaries and that it cannot be proven. He added that what has happened is that there has been a redistribution of income favoring the agricultural sector to the detriment of the more productive urban sector.

GOVERNMENT DENOUNCES ORIT BOYCOTT AS 'IRRATIONAL'

PA281432Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1351 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 28 Nov (LATIN)--The Military government has described the agreement reached in Lima by the Regional Inter-American Labor Organization (ORIT) to isolate this country commercially as an "irrational attempt to attack Chile."

According to an Interior Ministry statement released yesterday, the measure has been promoted by labor leaders who have "betrayed" their country and by former political party leaders. It added that if the boycott is implemented, "those bad Chileans" will be drastically sanctioned.

It also announced to the country that the government will adopt the necessary measures to prevent the commercial isolation of the public.

The ORIT executive council decided to boycott shipments within Latin America coming to or from Chile, Cuba and Nicaragua.

The following is the text of the Interior Ministry declaration: "The Chilean Government and nation have learned today of the agreement reached by a group of international labor organizations aimed at imposing a boycott on Chile and seeking to prevent the unloading of merchandise from our country abroad or the shipment of products to our territory. This is an attempt to commercially isolate our fatherland. [Passage not received] sectors to prudence and rationality, recalling, in particular, the prudence that should be shown by persons invested with religious or moral authority, who must not become involved in activities detrimental to Chile's welfare.

"It is expected that now, in view of the regrettable consequences to which they have contributed, these people will react with the same humanistic zeal they invoked previously, since they cannot close their consciences to the fact that a boycott is going to affect, in an especially grave and immediate manner, the most humble sectors which they allege that they serve.

"Lastly, the government calls upon all of our compatriots to close ranks around the fatherland, certain that we, its children, will know how to respond to this new challenge with the courage and valor with which, throughout our history, we have overcome the attacks attempted against the sovereignty, dignity and greatness of Chile."

RESTRICTIONS ON NIGHT TRAFFIC REDUCED

PY241927Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Restrictions on night traffic are reduced. Proclamation No 121, by the command of the state of emergency zone, says that there will be no restrictions whatever on Friday and Saturday nights or on nights preceding holidays. This rule is also valid for Saturday, Sunday and holiday mornings.

In the preamble, Gen Enrique Morel stresses the civic maturity shown by the citizens in their present behavior, which fully justifies the partial reduction of restrictions.

Restrictions on movements by night of vehicles of all types, both private and belonging to public transport, are maintained during the nights of Sunday through Thursday before 0530.

Cinemas, theaters and entertainment spots will time their performances so that the last performance will not end later than 0030 the following day. Shops, cafes, bars, restaurants, nightclubs and other businesses where alcoholic drinks are served must close not later than 0100 on Sunday through Thursday.

It is repeated that restrictions on night movements do not apply to pedestrians.

Offenders will be put at the disposal of the local police courts.

BOMB DAMAGES HOME OF SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT

PY232029Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1435 GMT 23 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 23 Nov (AFP)--The police have reported that a powerful bomb exploded today at the home of Israel Borquez, president of the Chilean Supreme Court, who is hearing an extradition case related to the murder in Washington of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

According to the report, the bomb caused a great deal of property damage, and the windows in some neighboring houses were broken, but no one was hurt.

Borquez was in his bedroom at the time of the explosion, and on being asked about the possible perpetrators, he said: "I am not a soothsayer."

A few weeks ago, the president of the Supreme Court began the trial against three Chilean military officers whose extradition has been requested by the United States for their involvement in the murder of former Socialist Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, which took place in Washington.

This is the third bomb which has gone off in Santiago during the past 48 hours.

Two other bombs were thrown against public buildings by unidentified persons on Tuesday without causing any casualties.

BRIEFS

EXPORTS SURPASS \$2 BILLION--The foreign trade department of the Chilean Central Bank has reported that this year national exports as of 10 November amounted to \$2.116 billion while imports for the same period of time reached \$2.593 billion. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Nov 78 PY]

SHIPS IN PUERTO WILLIAMS--Puerto Williams, Chile, 21 Nov (AFP)--The Chilean Navy's cruiser "Prat" and other ships arrived early today, Tuesday, at this small port to take part in the 25th anniversary celebrations of its founding. Puerto Williams is located almost directly across the Beagle Channel from the Argentine city of Ushuaia. According to the commander in chief of the naval squadron, Vice Adm Raul Lopez Silva, this trip is strictly for training purposes. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1918 GMT 21 Nov 78 PY]

STUDENTS RETURN TO CLASS--Santiago, Chile, 17 Nov (AFP)--Students of theology and philosophy of the Chilean Catholic university returned to class today after 4 consecutive days of protests. The students who returned to class sent a note to the university rector requesting that the student leaders, Jorge Carrasco and Juan Claudio Godoy, who were expelled from the university for calling for the renewal of direct elections in the university, be allowed to return. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1516 GMT 17 Nov 78 PY]

TURBAY SPEAKS ON DECENTRALIZATION, SECURITY MEASURES

PA270045Y Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 24 Nov 78 PA

[Speech by President Turbay Ayala at governors summit in Medellin; date not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] Cabinet ministers, governors: In announcing the sessions of this meeting of governors, I want to advise that our purpose is not only to hold a work meeting to discuss subjects to downplay government activities. This is not a publicity-seeking government that pretends to surprise the Colombian people in each and every one of its presentations with extraordinary acts but a government which operates within the (exact) field of the possibilities of action.

So that the governors may act as managers rather than police inspectors, this government has issued a decree in line with the constitution's spirit of decentralization, entrusting the governors to coordinate the work which the decentralized agencies and institutes perform in the territories under their jurisdiction. However, the purpose has not been only to coordinate their work and participation in the preparation of the budgets of those institutes and agencies but, in order to guarantee that this is done, they have also been given the function of president of the boards of directors of each of those organizations together with the respective jurisdictions. In this fashion, the governors now have functions that they did not have before. These increase the weight of their responsibilities but also help them to promote progress in their respective sections.

In complementing this very important activity with the laws which will be presented to the Congress in extraordinary sessions, we will have governors with great powers and territorial entities which will be recovering their autonomy. We require that the decentralization process not stop with the governors but that it extends down to the municipalities. Just as the president of the republic is delegating his powers to cabinet ministers and governors, the governors must study ways to delegate many of their powers to their secretaries and even to the municipal mayors.

Usually, not all the functions which are subject to delegation are within the scope of the executive branch's desire, nor can all of them be delegated by decree. Many require laws to make viable the necessary contracts for providing specific services which the nation can delegate to the departments. We are also working on this set of ideas. The process will be truly inspiring and gradual. We cannot consider decentralization as something which will automatically respond to the desire and purpose of the president of the republic and his immediate advisers. It is a process which also requires gradual familiarization by the authorities of the different sections with the mechanics of decentralization. However, it is evident that just as decentralization is today considered essential for development, a poorly managed decentralization, (obstructed) from taking its initial steps with sufficient strength, would result in such a hard blow that I dare say its implementation would be seriously delayed and would lack support from the people. Conversely, if the initial steps of the decentralization process are taken securely, firmly, after prior study and with a full sense of responsibility, we will be opening a broad field to the proper initiatives and toward creating the bases for the desired and desirable regional autonomy.

This morning we wish to refer to another subject which was a principal object of the presidential campaign and constituted a kind of priority subject for all the candidates, not just those who won in the June elections. It is the subject of security. My government is seriously committed to guaranteeing the security of the people, and I will not yield on this goal.

Naturally, we will recognize the complete freedom of criticism (?which may exist) to judge as broadly as desired the measures which this government has been obliged to establish to guarantee security. This government is inspired by absolutely democratic principles of the finest constitutionalist strain. We have in no way violated the bounds of democracy or the limits of the constitution.

The country knows that some persons harbor intentions to deny the government's control, not exactly by way of elections but by actual deeds. In this respect, I can say that I am relieved of presenting proof due to the concession by those having these intentions who have publicized their positions through publications which are well known to the authorities and the information media, publications in which the guerrilla groups declare that any time not devoted to armed struggle and concrete acts against the legitimately established authorities is wasted time. We are well aware of that decision and we are taking it into consideration in the development of our constitutional obligations to preserve the democratic values, the republican system and the legal and civil tradition of this country, which boasts so much of being a country of law.

Naturally, we feel that paramilitary forces organized to threaten state security cannot be fought with simple theories or weak measures; our action must be much stronger than our own [words indistinct]. Otherwise, they would continue to make dangerous progress which would compromise the quiet life of the Colombian people.

ECOPETROL PRESIDENT DEFENDS GOVERNMENT'S ENERGY POLICIES

PA272008Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Ernesto Suarez, president of the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [ECOPETROL], today defended the government's energy policies and said that the increases in fuel prices are justified. He reiterated that ECOPETROL is experiencing a serious financial crisis.

Suarez made these statements after opening a meeting of Latin American oil experts. During the seminar sponsored by the Colombian association of petroleum engineers, Suarez emphasized the efforts being made by the present administration to solve energy problems.

Prominent experts in petroleum engineering from the Andean Pact and other Latin American countries are attending the event. Studies are being prepared during the sessions on energy problems for submission to the second congress on petroleum engineering scheduled to be held in Caracas in 1980.

THREE FARC GUERRILLAS KILLED IN SANTANDER DEPARTMENT

PA280428Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Three members of the self-named Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces [FARC] were killed at noon today in Santander Department during a clash between the guerrillas and troops of the 5th Brigade at Vuelta Oreja, near the Orta River, in Cimitarra District. Two of the guerrillas were identified as Edilberto Leiva Vera (Galvis) and Italo Triana (Freddy). The third was not identified. During the clash the troops confiscated a G-3 rifle stolen from the engineers corps during an attack in Los Sanchez, an M-2 carbine, an MK-2 grenade and a .38 caliber revolver, according to the official report.

FSLN MEMBER OPENS SOLIDARITY WEEK WITH NICARAGUA

PA281645Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] A member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has opened a week of solidarity with Nicaragua in Quito which was organized by a committee of political parties, worker centrals, intellectuals and artists. Jose (Ganeo) is touring Latin America to report on the true situation in Nicaragua.

In a news conference the Sandinist guerrilla representative disclosed that they will inflict the final blow in a few days against the dictatorship of the Somoza family which has been ruling Nicaragua for over 40 years. He explained that the guerrillas believe that the people's revolutionary war is the only solution. Therefore, they reject the proposal to hold a plebiscite which could result in Somozism without Somoza in power.

(Ganeo) said: [begin recording] You are all well aware of the role of the mediating commission in the Nicaraguan case, with its representatives from the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and the United States. What has happened [words indistinct] the attitude of the mediating commission is (?not) accepted by the Somozist dictatorship. The representatives of Somozism are so pedantic that they even mock the democratic countries; they even mock the mediating commission. The Somoza dictatorship goes as far as mocking the mediating commission and--why not say it--it dares to speak in harsh terms to the U.S. Government which is directly responsible for the assassination of General Sandino and for establishing the Somozist dictatorship. What can the Nicaraguan people expect from it? Only terror, bloodshed, hunger, unemployment, and so forth. In view of this situation the vanguard of the Nicaraguan people--the FSLN--feels that the only solution for Nicaragua is the revolutionary people's war. [end recording]

V.P. CANDIDATE HAILS BOLIVIAN COUP, ANTI-SOMOZA STRUGGLE

PA271524Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 27 Nov 78 PA

[Excerpt] Vice presidential candidate Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea made the following statement on Friday regarding the coup in Bolivia: [begin recording] The Bolivian Armed Forces' decision to overthrow a dictatorship that tried to mock the people's will and to issue an immediate call for elections is a highly educational experience for all who seek to block the democratization process in various Latin American countries.

Bolivia has opened a gap in the continent's dictatorial system. The same thing is true of the Nicaraguan people, who have been struggling for several weeks and who will finally, be victorious, thus opening a broad path for the consolidation of the continent's democratization process. To all of this we must add the initiative of several democratic Latin American countries to undermine Gen Anastasio Somoza's tyrannical government. This leads one to think that the victory of the Bolivian people and the forthcoming victory of the Nicaraguan people will serve as an example to all of us who are struggling to help the Ecuadorean people recover their democratic rights and thwart coupist forces that are now trying to disown Jaime Roldos' and Oswaldo Hurtado's popular victory.

We are not confronting the armed forces in this struggle. We are confronting the coupist civilian sectors which should be the foremost representatives of the people's democratic will at this moment. [end recording]

PARTIES SAID TRYING TO HINDER DEMOCRATIZATION

PA230052Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Just as the democratization plan seemed to be making firm headway without obstacles, several political parties have tried to hinder it by challenging the July presidential election vote count. The political parties which are trying to destabilize the political restructuring plan apparently have a certain relationship with the largest plot ever against the candidacies of Jaime Roldos and Oswaldo Hurtado.

At a time when candidates Jaime Roldos of the Concentration of Popular Forces and rightist Sixto Duran Ballen were tactily acknowledged as the likely participants in the runoff election, several political fronts filed for legal redress in a bid to disrupt the electoral process. Two antipopulist lawyers from Guayaquil received a negative answer to their request that Roldos' candidacy be nullified because he does not meet the age requirement.

With Roldos and his teammate Oswaldo Hurtado on a tour of Europe, several political parties which supported Duran in the first round of the elections have demanded that the election be annulled for alleged fraud, thus jeopardizing his chances of remaining in the race.

The [word indistinct] to annul the July election was based on a report of the Electoral Tribunal itself, which acknowledged that severe irregularities had been committed in that [word indistinct].

Julio Cesar Trujillo has said that a dirty and undemocratic game is being planned. We strongly and indignantly denounce it. It would consist of forcing Sixto Duran Ballen into resigning his candidacy in order to allege that the constitutionalization process cannot move forward. Trujillo added that talks are now underway to get Liberal candidate Raul Clemente Huerta--who ran third in the first round of the elections in July--to decline to participate in the runoff election in Duran's place.

For its part, a Liberal Party wing contends that the irregularities acknowledged by the Electoral Tribunal have hurt Huerta's candidacy and that, for this reason, they will not accept any results that are proclaimed.

Meanwhile, Fabian Alarcon Rivera, director of the Popular Patriotic Party [PPP], has affirmed that Duran will remain in the presidential race despite the request from several parties that he resign his position.

The National Constitutionalist Front, which supports Duran's candidacy, has not yet taken a stand on the subject, Alarcon said. The Conservative Party and the Democratic Institutional Coalition, he said, have raided proposals as independent political parties because they are not now part of the front.

Meanwhile, the PPP will hold a meeting here tomorrow in an attempt to reach a decision on the matter. Nevertheless, Alarcon asserted that his political organization is among those which have most earnestly defended the constitutionalization process but that it could not lend itself to any attempt to mock the citizens' will.

For its part the Ecuadorean Nationalist Revolutionary Action [ARNE] denounced the existence of strong pressures to force Duran to give up his candidacy in order to destroy the democratization process. However, Jorge Luna, ARNE's top leader, reiterated that his party supports the plan. Questioned about any consequences entailed in an eventual breakdown of the process, Luna said that this would create distrust among the citizens. Starting new proceedings would yield no result [word indistinct]. The country would fall into a state of anarchy.

USSR FACES DIFFICULTY IN YACYRETA BIDDING

FY211851Y Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 20 Nov 78 p 6 FY

[Text] Soviet participation in supplying the electromechanical equipment for the Yacyreta hydroelectric plant is facing great difficulties, according to a spokesman of that binational entity. The main reason which might prevent the Soviets from winning the bid for this would be Argentina's experience with the Soviet Union equipping the Argentine-Uruguayan Salto Grande plant.

With respect to this, Argentine technicians who were involved with this project stated that at no time could they observe Soviet production of the turbines because the Soviets would permit neither the Argentines nor the Uruguayans to follow the construction process. Therefore, the Soviets were denying the two countries the possibility of acquiring important technological knowledge.

Uruguayans and Argentines were immensely disturbed by the fact that their technicians could not participate in the construction of the turbines because they wanted to obtain experience which could be very valuable to them in the future.

"The machines are technological marvels," said one of the Argentine authorities who took part in the Salto Grande project and who now holds an important position in Yacyreta. However, he added: "We would have liked to have obtained some more knowledge about the process of their construction."

The expert also praised the "technical advancement" of the Soviet machines, "even though they have not yet been tried."

It was also indicated that the Soviets do not present an organizational outline [organigra] of the work as Argentina would like.

Taking the equipping of Salto Grande as an example, we should recall the serious problem which arose with the supplying of the equipment and its transportation from the factory itself to the hydroelectric plant.

In order to transport the equipment, an entire infrastructural complex had to be set up because of the great size and heavy weight of each of the parts. Some time was needed to find cranes, roads and trucks which could stand the weight of the equipment.

The technicians say that the Soviet factory one day suddenly advised them that the equipment was already at customs waiting to be taken to Salto Grande. This demanded an extremely hurried mobilization in order to gather everything necessary for the transfer, "with the corresponding loss of time and money."

It was announced in our country that Yacyreta will take special care in drawing up the contract for the supplying of the turbines. The contract will deal with all aspects concerning the transfer of technology, transportation of the equipment, its installation, and other points.

For this reason, it is believed that the Russians, because of their very closed system, will hardly be able to adapt themselves to so many demands.

The Yacyreta spokesmen confessed that the Soviets are practically unbeatable in the technical field, but they are hindered by their own system and the well-known political reticence which exists in our country with respect to Russia.

In its letter of intent, the USSR's Energomachexport did not specify a limit to the amount of financing available for Yacyreta's electromechanical equipment. It specified that "it would provide financing for the generating equipment in accordance with the requirements of the entity (Yacyreta)," thus showing great interest in participating in the construction of the Parana River hydroelectric plant.

However, the Russians will suffer another blow with the desertion of companies associated with its suppliers, such as the FRG's Siemens and Italy's Gie. These firms might abandon the Soviets because they foresee the political difficulties which may arise.

HUMAN RIGHTS SEEN AS REASON FOR USSR MIG'S TO CUBA

PY221214Y Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 19 Nov 78 p 16 PA

[By Carlos Talavera]

[Excerpts] If the presence of the most advanced USSR combat planes in Cuba has any similarity with the 1961 "missile crisis," the overall conditions of the geopolitical and military balance have changed sufficiently to make the real significance of the current situation very, very different.

Although the presence of the USSR's MiG-23's in the Caribbean does not alter the nuclear balance, it does basically mean a USSR response to the hardening of U.S. policy regarding human rights. It is also related to the role which the USSR has assigned to Cuba in the ever-increasing interference in secondary conflicts throughout the world, which are precisely the points on which the conflict between the superpowers is undefined.

Of course, U.S. and Latin American public opinion is extremely sensitive to psychological pressure regarding an eventual nuclear, and powerful, Cuba. The Carter administration cannot therefore give itself the luxury of ignoring this incident, and some type of reply is foreseeable. But the indisputable reality is that many times the interests of the superpowers are in agreement behind the back of the rest of the world, and therefore it would be possible to believe that the current situation was foreseen and "coded" some time ago.

ULTIMA HORA SAYS U.S. CANNOT TRUST SOVIETS

PY222337Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 20 Nov 78 p 9 PY

[Editorial: "The Worthless [Letra Muerta] Agreement With the USSR" by Demetrio Rojas]

[Text] International political circles have reported and commented in recent days on the fact that the United States is either too credulous or that it is too naive regarding the honesty and rectitude of the Soviet Union in matters concerning international policy, the enforcement of agreements concerning military issues or areas of influence. This seems to be demonstrated once more with what is taking place in Cuba, a neighboring communist country which is located 90 miles from the strategic U.S. coasts and which reportedly has stationed in its territory sophisticated planes with nuclear weapons, or at least materiel which can be converted into nuclear weapons. It is well known, and this has been confirmed by the U.S. military intelligence service, that these planes which have an enormous offensive capacity are of Soviet origin, and that these planes reportedly arrived secretly in Cuba as a result of a secret understanding between the two communist countries.

The Carter administration by now must have erased all its doubts about this deed, and thus it will have arrived at two basic indisputable conclusions: First, that the 1962 agreement which was signed between the United States and the Soviet Union after the threat of war, which was overcome perhaps because of the drastic attitude taken by then-President Kennedy, did little or nothing in reality because of the Soviets' insistence on violating and disregarding any treaty or agreement; second, the United States, throughout its different partisan administrations and even its military hierarchy, continues to show a lack of caution or justified apprehension in the face of the Machiavellian political-military disposition of Soviet imperialism.

After compiling and studying the guidelines, slogans and line of action of President Carter's Democratic political team (before and after his election) it is not difficult to establish that the United States reduced to the minimum any possible chance of a bold or aggressive advance on the part of its powerful adversary. A virtual policy of appeasement has been promoted, on the belief that it is possible to agree, coexist and go unnoticed by this adversary by merely making theoretical, diplomatic and pacifist demonstrations and having aspirations for coexistence. There are many deeds, however, which show us the contrary--the reluctance for a new version of SALT II, for example, or the notable growth of the Warsaw Pact--but which the United States has not heeded with the necessary seriousness.

The presence of offensive nuclear weapons in Cuba transported from the Soviet Union will shatter any previous credulous presumption on the part of the United States. This is a serious situation, not only because of what the presence of nuclear weapons under the United States' nose may mean, but also because this shatters the slightest credibility which may have existed toward the fearsome communist bear's actions and aspirations. This is another reliable piece of evidence that papers, gentlemen's agreements or persuasive friendly attitudes are not good enough for the Soviets.

BRIEFS

INQUIRY ON MISSING PERSONS--Paris, 29 Nov (AFP)--Paraguayan Industry and Commerce Minister Delfin Ugarte Centurion has received a letter from the French committee for support and solidarity with the Paraguayan people asking for information about 62 missing Paraguayans. The letter also expresses the committee's conviction that Paraguay's potential economic development and the continued violation of human rights in that country are incompatible. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1057 GMT 20 Nov 78 PY]

LABOR CONFERENCE DELEGATION--Saul Gonzalez, Paraguay's labor minister, will head the Paraguayan delegation to the sixth international conference of labor ministers which will begin in Lima on 26 November. The delegation will also include Juan Andres Silva, director of the human resources directorate; Modesto Ali; Porfirio Gimenez; Salvador Vera, representing the Paraguayan Workers Federation [CPT]; and Jorge Samaniego of the industry, commerce and production federation. [Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 20 Nov 78 p 13 PY]

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SPANISH MONARCHS' VISIT

Agreements Signed

PY251415Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 78 PY

[Excerpts] Juan Carlos I, king of Spain, and Peruvian President Morales Bermudez met for an hour yesterday at the government palace after the signing of the Spanish-Peruvian joint declaration and two agreements between the two governments. This was the second meeting between the two leaders since the arrival of King Juan Carlos I in Lima. The first meeting was held yesterday morning and lasted almost 2 hours.

The Spanish and Peruvian foreign ministers signed two agreements to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. The ceremony lasted over 15 minutes and was held at the government palace and broadcast over the national radio and television network. First a Peruvian-Spanish administrative agreement on social security was signed, stipulating the procedures of the Peruvian-Spanish social security agreement in force since 9 June 1969. A complementary agreement to the scientific and technical cooperation basic agreement was also signed to intensify technical cooperation for better use of the geological-mining resources of the two countries and to promote the development of [words indistinct] projects.

King and Queen Depart

PA261751Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1741 GMT 26 Nov 78 PA

[Text] La Joya, Arequipa, Peru, 26 Nov (Latin)--Spanish monarchs Juan Carlos I and his wife Sofia of Greece departed at 1715 GMT today from this military air base for Argentina, thus ending an official 5-day visit to Peru. The Spanish monarchs arrived in this city from Cuzco during the morning. They made a brief visit to the Santa Catalina convent after having been declared illustrious guests and having received the key to the city.

MINISTER SILVA RUETE COMMENTS ON NATION'S FOREIGN DEBT

PA271943Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0727 GMT 27 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 27 Nov (EFE)--Peru's present foreign debt is 20 times larger than it was in 1968, when the military took over the government following a coup d'etat. According to Peruvian Economy Minister Javier Silva Ruete, Peru's foreign debt in 1968 was \$500 million. In June of this year it was \$8.47 billion.

According to the minister, Peru's inflation rate will be 75 percent by the end of December. He has noted that he expects this rate to drop to 40 percent in 1979 and to 20 percent in 1980.

Financial and political observers believe that Peru is approximately \$11 billion in debt because of excessive expenditures and "waste" in arms purchases. Silva Ruete, speaking on television this weekend, admitted that a large portion of the debt resulted from military expenditures. As a result of this situation Peru must set aside nearly 45 percent of its export revenue to maintain its foreign debt payments. The minister announced that Peru has been able to restructure 90 percent of its foreign debt payments for the 1978-1980 period. Peru will not have to pay \$1.93 billion during this period. The interest rate on this amount has not yet been established. Silva Ruete said that renegotiation will allow the country to break loose from the financial "strangulation" that it has been experiencing. The minister said that \$4.97 billion of the foreign debt was attributed to the public sector and \$1.34 billion to the private sector. When the army overthrew the Peruvian constitutional government in October 1968 the country's foreign debt was less than \$500 million.

FOLLE-MARTINEZ MEETS WITH ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER

PY231342Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Nov 78 PY

[Relayed report from Paysandu by Carve special correspondent Alberto Carreira]

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Adolfo Folle-Martinez and his Argentine counterpart, Carlos Washington Pastor, inspired by the friendly and brotherly relations which join the two peoples, have met in the city of Paysandu. The meeting was held in compliance with presidential declarations of 30 June and 5 November 1977, when the national interests of both countries were expressed, seeking permanent treatment of the many important subjects involved in their bilateral relations, and seeking to maintain permanent contact at the highest political level.

The main objective of this meeting was the establishment of the administrative commission of the Uruguay River, which will be made up of an equal number of members from both parties and have the city of Paysandu as its site, as of the date of this meeting. This is provided for in Article 51 of the Uruguay River statute signed by the two ministers through the appropriate exchange of notes in recognition of the progressive spirit of this border town.

The two ministers also found the occasion appropriate to exchange the instruments of ratification of the agreement on water transport signed in Montevideo on 20 August 1974--with many of its articles modified through an exchange of notes in November 1977--having special reference to the overall use of the water transport system between the two countries, including the reciprocal cooperation agreed upon with the signing of the River Plate treaty and its statute on the Uruguay River maritime front.

This meeting also served for an exchange of notes whereby the two ministers signed a sanitary agreement between the two countries regarding common health problems, providing permanent technical cooperation standards in sanitary control measures.

The two ministers also exchanged notes regarding the establishment of international circuits for tourist auto-transport services, in accordance with the provisions included in the international transport agreement signed at the meeting of ministers of public works and transport of southern cone countries.

The Uruguayan foreign minister was pleased with the report released by the Argentine foreign minister regarding the decision of the Argentine National Bank to open in the near future two new branches in the Uruguayan cities of Paysandu and Punta del Este.

At the end of the meeting, during which they held frank and cordial conversations on various subjects of common interest, the two foreign ministers agreed to sign a joint declaration called the Paysandu Declaration, in which they reaffirm the desire of their respective countries to keep on their agendas the most cordial and strong cooperation aimed at stimulating the most effective and fruitful measures for achieving brotherly solidarity among the people of the River Plate Basin.

The declaration also stresses the extreme importance of establishing the administrative commission of the Uruguay River. It states that current economic cooperation between Uruguay and Argentina is an instrument which seeks the development of both countries' economies.

It also expresses satisfaction at the positive results achieved at the meeting of the oversight commission held recently in Buenos Aires. Both foreign ministers recommended that this commission hold more frequent meetings in order to seek permanent strengthening and expansion of the commercial trends which make economic cooperation possible.

The joint declaration signed by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Adolfo Folle-Martinez and his Argentine counterpart, Carlos Pastor, establishes a decision-making policy in order to make current cooperation more dynamic and increase it even more, and proposes that the appropriate organizations study the possibility of creating a joint Argentine-Uruguayan commission which will have as its main objective promoting measures seeking the fulfillment of the objectives of both countries' development policies, and seeking greater integration of their economies as well.

Taking into consideration the current regional and world economic situation, the declaration also reiterates the need to continue stressing all actions which may accelerate the achievement of objectives seeking Latin American economic integration. It expresses recognition of the fruitful work of the technical joint commission for bridges between Argentina and Uruguay, COMPAU, and the technical joint commission, COTEPALCO, in the construction of the General San Martin and General Artigas Bridges.

It also expresses the satisfaction of both foreign ministers at the important work of the River Plate administrative offices, the technical joint commission of the maritime front, and of the Salto Grande.

After reaching agreement of view on all points discussed during the meeting, both foreign ministers finally agreed to reiterate through the Paysandu declaration their conviction that the current policies of close and loyal cooperation between the two nations, seeking greater mutual advantage, responds to the natural vocation of both peoples and to the traditional American feelings of both countries.

BRIEFS

MICROWAVE SYSTEM--By 1989, Uruguay will have a national microwave network system. An agreement was signed this afternoon for this purpose between the National Telecommunications Administration [ANTEL] and the Spanish company (Teletra Incorporated). This microwave network will be 1,500 km in length and will be distributed from Montevideo toward Salto, Rivera-Artigas, and (?Melo). [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Nov 78 PY]

NEW AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR--The national executive branch has appointed (Jose Luis Villa Diaz) as the new Uruguayan ambassador to El Salvador. [Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Nov 78 PY]

VI. 29 Nov 78

V E N E Z U E L A

L 1

CONSALVI CALLS FOR OAS MEASURES AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA251600Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0304 GMT 25 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 24 Nov (AFP)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi requested here today that the OAS go from the issuance of statements to action in connection with Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza's regime.

"Rather than sending a delegation or merely making statements, what the OAS should do, if it is willing to do anything at all, is to act, to adopt a more effective and serious resolution on Nicaragua," he stressed.

Consalvi underscored Venezuelan support for Costa Rica in its conflict with Nicaragua and stressed that "Costa Rica can be sure that at any given moment it will have enough defenders if the threats from an armed country such as Nicaragua continue."

According to him, the "mere exchanges of opinion" that Venezuela is carrying out with other countries in the area should not be interpreted as "prospects for a collective break" with the Managua regime.

He added that, in his opinion, Somoza's fall is not a matter of hours because "we already know the support Somoza has outside his country."

Finally, he said that there are 165 refugees in the Venezuelan Embassy in Managua and that this number is not likely to diminish because every time a group of 30 or 40 persons leaves for Venezuela, a similar number of refugees arrives at the embassy.

DEFENSE MINISTER SPEAKS ON ELECTIONS, PURCHASE OF FRIGATES

PA201513Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Venezuelan Defense Minister Gen Fernando Paredes Bello has said that the armed forces guarantee the security and vigilance of the electoral process. He added that total support will be given to the winning candidate because he represents the people's will.

He also justified the purchase of six frigates, pointing out that the national government has not made a similar investment since 1956. Personnel are being trained in Italy to man the frigates which will arrive in Venezuela in 1979. The purchase and maintenance of the frigates is very economically advantageous to the national government, he said.

ELECTORAL COUNCIL DENIES RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

PA271613Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Nov 78 PA

[Text] The secretary general of the Supreme Electoral Council denied that any members of the council have submitted their resignations, including Carlos Delgado Capellin, the president of the Supreme Electoral Council. He also said that no decision has been made regarding the suspension of political propaganda unless political parties insist on violating the regulations established by the Supreme Electoral Council. He told political party representatives that the deadline for stopping all political propaganda is 54 hours before the day of elections.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ARRIA ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLEMENT

PA231218Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0033 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 22 Nov (AFP)--Jorge Olavarria, editor of the liberal magazine RESUMEN, today accused rightist presidential candidate Diego Arria of allegedly embezzling 42 million bolivares (almost \$10 million) in public funds.

According to a thick package of documents that Olavarria delivered to a local court, Arria is responsible for alleged administrative irregularities in the purchase of land for a cemetery and the construction of a beach resort on the central coast outside Caracas.

During the current administration of President Carlos Andres Perez, Arria held the posts of information and tourism minister, governor of Caracas and president of the Simon Bolivar Center Autonomous Institute.

According to the charge of the editor and lawyer, the current presidential candidate embezzled 32 million bolivares (\$7.5 million) during the construction of the beach resort and 10 million bolivares (\$2.3 million) in the purchase of land for a cemetery even though 1 month before the deal the land had been appraised at 1.619 million bolivares (\$376,000). [sentence as received]

Olavarria indicated that "not only was there embezzlement but also fraud, abuse of authority, illicit enrichment" and other alleged crimes.

COMMENTATOR ASSAILS EXTREMISTS IN VENEZUELA

PA272034Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Nov 78 PA

[Juan Manuel Alvarez commentary]

[Text] The arrest of a group of persons allegedly involved in bank robberies which according to the diligent investigations of the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) are conducted to finance guerrilla operations, clearly indicates that the threat of armed subversion is not over. It proves that these groups have not dropped their guard and that they continue to nurture the idea of subverting democratic order at any time. These actions initially appeared to be the deeds of common criminals, but as the investigations proceeded it became clear that extremists from the so-called extreme revolutionary left, with armed groups operating in the mountains and fanatic youths disrupting public order in the cities in order to create a climate of unrest and uncertainty, were responsible for the bank robberies. These groups have taken advantage of the electoral process to carry out their crimes. This is part of their tactic of creating confusion and insecurity among the population and is implicitly intended to damage the government's prestige so that in the future they can count on the people's unrest to carry out more drastic operations.

These persons who have been identified as bank robbers and who are being prosecuted by military courts have seized several million bolivares which have not been recovered but which presumably comprise the economic resources to buy arms for continuing guerrilla activities.

We believe that the democratic state should act strongly in defense of its institutions. National sectors, excluding, of course, those minority groups committed to the most aggressive and disturbing extremism, support the government's decision to eliminate those lurking groups which, under the pretext of their opposition to [word indistinct] legal coexistence guaranteed by the constitution, pretend to permanently oppose our lawful system which has been chosen by the people.

Next Sunday, all Venezuelans, men and women, will peacefully elect the government to rule the nation for a period of 5 years. It will be the fifth president elected by the direct and secret voting system in 20 years of full exercise of sovereignty. This is the proper occasion for reiterating the firm belief that democracy is a way of life conceived to enjoy freedom, respect for human dignity, civilized coexistence and firm hope in welfare and that in spite of its imperfections and flaws attributed to it, it is the best doctrinary system for a people who do not want to be subjected or abused.

Think about this, particularly the youth who study and think, because if we continue promoting the idea that our liberation from injustice will be achieved with rifles and machineguns, then we must fear the future.

LIGHT CRUDE DEPOSIT DISCOVERED IN LAKE MARACAIBO

PA171628Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Nov 78 PA

[Text] The Meneven enterprise has reported that a new light crude deposit has been discovered in Lake Maracaibo. It said that the initial estimates of the reserves of this petroleum well amount to 100 million barrels a day. [as heard] It added that in view of this discovery, it is planning to drill other wells in the area of [word indistinct] in Lake Maracaibo to ascertain the scope of this discovery.

BRIEFS

ALUMINUM TO JAPAN--Cesar Mendoza, president of the state-owned Venalum enterprise, has announced that Venezuela will export its first aluminum shipment to Japan at the end of this month. The first shipment consists of 5,000 metric tons of aluminum. The shipment constitutes 60 percent of the plant's production and is very significant because it secures a foreign market for Venezuela's aluminum. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Nov 78 PA]

GOVERNMENT DENIES PROVIDING MILITARY AID TO SANDINISTS

PA290120Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Dr Carlos Ozores said this afternoon that Panama is not helping the Sandinist Front or Costa Rica. Ozores said that the Costa Rican Government has not asked Panama for military aid.

Asked whether the Panamanian Government had been notified by the State Department about U.S. concern over alleged military aid to the Sandinists, the foreign minister answered: Absolutely not. On the other hand, a document drawn up by the State Department says that the Panamanian Government knows about and shares the U.S. concern over the situation in Nicaragua and notes that the Panamanian Government has voiced in the past its opposition to the creation of a Marxist state in Nicaragua.

In turn, military intelligence chief Lt Col Manuel Antonio Noriega said he is studying the news report from Washington and would rather not comment on it.

'COMMANDER MAO' SAYS FSLN HOPES FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION

PA240308Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0123 GMT 24 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 23 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--Commander Mao [Milciades A. Ortiz], political instructor of the Panamanian brigade which is fighting alongside the anti-Somoza rebels, said here today that the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) still hopes that a peaceful solution for the Nicaraguan political crisis will be achieved to prevent a bloodbath.

Referring to the announced FSLN final offensive against the Nicaraguan Army to overthrow President Anastasio Somoza, Commander Mao said that the guerrilla group is aware that an attack of that magnitude would provoke a civil war with the consequent death of thousands of Nicaraguans.

In recent communications between Mao and the Panamanians who are fighting alongside Nicaraguans, Costa Ricans and Venezuelans somewhere in Nicaragua, the guerrillas told him of a clash in which they participated a couple of weeks ago without sustaining any casualties.

Commander Mao, a university professor, newsman and sociologist, also said that the FSLN central command believes that the basic and most difficult aspect will be effective neutralization of the Nicaraguan Air Force, which has great combat ability and can destroy any guerrilla camp established in the mountains.

Commander Mao believes that Somoza will be forced to withdraw from the presidency more by the internal pressure--economic crisis--than by external pressure.

Ortiz Accuses Government of Censorship

PA241430Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Nov 78 PA

[Statement by Milciades A. Ortiz during "Conciencia" program]

[Excerpts] Concerning the latest information on the Panamanian Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade, I am able to tell you that 2 weeks ago two members of the brigade arrived in Panama City and remained here incognito.

During their stay, they carried out various activities for the benefit of the Sandinist Front, and also acted as couriers for a number of operations and then returned to their meeting with history in Nicaragua.

The Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade has very high morale, according to my reports. Dr Hugo Spadafora meets nearly every afternoon with the Panamanians to analyze the day's activities in order to improve the Panamanians' participation with the anti-Somoquist guerrillas. He is assisted by Dr Jorge Aparicio, the second in command of the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade. I have also learned that there are several dozen Panamanians ready to leave Panama and go to Nicaragua, but they have had problems crossing the Costa Rican border.

Besides, it must be noted that the new Panamanian authorities are hindering the activities of the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade, which has led, among other things, to a curtain of silence by the government-controlled newspapers. Several accounts of the activities of the Panamanians in Nicaragua have been given to the newspapers, but have not been published following this enforced silence on these Panamanians who are filled with idealism and have decided to struggle for the liberation of a brother country, such as Nicaragua.

That is why we must not blame the war correspondents of the brigade for the silence, but rather those who are responsible for the policies of the progovernment newspapers.

Further on Brigade's Activities

PA281514Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1255 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Statement by Milciades A. Ortiz during "Conciencia" program]

[Text] Reports obtained from the combat zone in Nicaragua allow me to report that one Panamanian was slightly injured last week during a clash with Somoquist forces. Several of Somoza's soldiers died during the attack by the International Brigade of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], which includes Panamanian volunteers.

On Sunday, the FSLN attacked a camp of the Somoza troops. In view of the Sandinists' superiority, Somoza's soldiers requested reinforcements. When the troops of the Nicaraguan dictator arrived, they were ambushed by the Sandinists, who killed many National Guardsmen, a report that has not been disclosed in detail until now.

Aside from the Panamanian slightly injured last week, the other Panamanians in the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade have suffered no casualties in their actions against Somoza. On the contrary, my source, newsman Antonio Graell of the daily CRITICA, said that the morale of the Panamanians is very high and that they are very effective in combat. I have learned that some Panamanians have been outstanding in the handling of heavy artillery, as in the case of Santana Rojas of La Chorrera, and in tactical attacks, as in the case of Armando (Bey), who is a karate professor at the University of Panama.

Newsman Antonio Graell is sending reports to the various communications media, including Program Conciencia.

COMMENTARY CALLS FOR INTERNATIONALIZING NICARAGUAN STRUGGLE

PA22225Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The violation of the Costa Rican border by the Nicaraguan Army and the cowardly killing of thousands of persons opposed to the bloody dictatorship of the Somozas represents a new chapter in the history of crimes sponsored by imperialism, whose only interest is to maintain its domination over the continent.

Only a few hours after the Costa Rican Government announced the break of diplomatic relations with Nicaragua in the wake of the shooting of Costa Rican border guards, the voices of rejection against the regime have been heard condemning the vile aggression and noting the need for internationalizing the struggle for the total liberation of the fraternal Nicaraguan people.

It is not only Costa Rica that is being attacked. The very people of Nicaragua are the direct victims of the bloody horde that uses weapons to quash the liberation aspirations and the progressive advancement of Latin America.

Reports say that a defender of the sovereignty of Costa Rica died in an armed clash between Nicaraguan forces and Costa Rican policemen. This event not only makes evident the intentions of the Somoza government, but also the aggressive nature of the regime whose army has been trained to commit crimes.

The Somoza government could care less about entering a neighboring country and razing it to the ground because it knows that it will be defended at the OAS by equally corrupt and no less aggressive governments that have an influence on the decisions of that organization and shield themselves behind an anticommunist struggle in an effort to justify their actions.

However, there are several countries that are ready to block any outlet which will result in the strengthening of the Somoza farce.

Panama, through its government, has stated its support for Costa Rica and its decision to struggle alongside that country to defend its sovereignty and its honor, which has now been stained.

In the struggle against backwardness and genocide, people should not forget effective and militant solidarity with those nations which are subjected to terror and bullets and which, in spite of all difficulties, struggle to reach their true liberation.

Nicaragua, which has been wounded and has shed blood, has hoisted a flag, that of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, to proclaim that its march will be without quarter and that its cause is that of those who love the liberty of the people.

The Somoza government is still standing not because the Nicaraguan people want it, but as a result of the gigantic support of the transnationals, imperialism and the traditional political parties allied to a despotic regime that despises the well-being of the working people and deprives them of their achievements.

This is an historic fact: No people can be indefinitely subjected to the yoke of exploitation. Nicaragua is no exception because the Nicaraguans, the heirs of a great tradition of struggle and sacrifice, are prepared to die for their freedom and to contribute to the history of emancipation from the tyrannies of the entire American continent.

The aggression against the people of Nicaragua and Costa Rica is evidence that the struggle of the enemies of liberty has no bounds. For this reason, the response of the progressive forces of Latin America and the world, including the people and Government of Panama, is to reject aggression.

Nothing can any longer justify a quiet contemplation of the desolation of Central America.

COLUMNIST PLAYS U.S. CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY

PA232253Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 23 Nov 78 p 4A PA

["Vox Populi Vox Dei" column by Luis Restrepo: "Trial and Error"]

[Text] The imperial house on the Potomac insists on carrying out a "trial and error" policy in Nicaragua. Until now, all attempts to save the Somoza regime have failed. Therefore, a new plan has been presented whereby the Nicaraguan people have been convoked to a plebiscite to be held in January to decide whether or not Somoza should remain as head of the regime that has created so many martyrs in our neighboring Central American nation.

The fact that this plan has been presented long after the OAS human rights committee published its report shows that, in terms of U.S. policy regarding Central America, the goal is not to condemn Somoza for his crimes, but to prevent, by all possible means, the installation of a people's democratic government in Managua.

According to the White House, the Pentagon and the State Department, Central America, consisting of Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, must be kept under bloodthirsty military regimes. This constitutes a complete denial of the human rights doctrine proclaimed by the U.S. President.

President Carter probably smiled while receiving reports of all the crimes committed by Somoza and his shock troops. He also smiled when hearing reports of crimes committed by the shah in Iran, and similar materials from Indonesia and from other areas which have not been mentioned in the press dispatches of U.S.-controlled news agencies.

Only those who have a complete disregard for the lives and well-being of people who will dare to vote against the tyranny could conceive a plebiscite held in Nicaragua under the Somoza tyranny. Furthermore, General Somoza is being given a 2- or 3-month respite in which to organize the plebiscite, buy more weapons, increase repression against his people, and increase threats, destruction, death and aggression against Costa Rica. He is seeking a confrontation with that country to vent all the hatred he feels toward Costa Ricans.

A plebiscite held under the Somoza tyranny would be a great humiliation for the Nicaraguan people. It would be held without freedom, through terror, repression and death. Very few people would be able to vote against the regime because there would probably be guards, spies and hoodlums of the murderous regime at the voting places to prevent anyone from voting against the tyranny.

President Carter is aware of this. However, it seems that U.S. policy toward Central America has remained unchanged since the days of Manifest Destiny, which advocated the occupation of the countries in the area by the U.S. Armed Forces under the control of the great banana companies. They created what was called the "banana empire," which was inhabited by wild Indians driven to new depths by vice and disease.

The State Department's insistence on a plebiscite, now that all efforts have failed to reach an agreement satisfactory to U.S. interests, is a new slap to Latin American dignity. It is as bad as the infamous construction of a barbed-wire fence along the Mexican border, called in international circles the "barbed-wire curtain," which is just as sinister as the iron or bamboo curtains.

Following this same policy, there will probably be attempts to prevent the publication--where a free press still exists--of any information against the Somoza regime imposed 40 years ago by the United States.

The shady maneuvers to save the Somoza regime have been strongly condemned in Nicaragua and abroad. This condemnation means nothing to the United States, however. It will surely try to go ahead with its plans to maintain a Central America chained to U.S. interests.

ROYO PROMOTES IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM IN CHIRIQUI SPEECH

PA260317Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1705 GMT 24 Nov 78 PA

[Speech by Panamanian President Aristides Royo at meeting with members of Chiriqui Province Chamber of Commerce and Industry in David--live]

[Excerpts] We wish to reaffirm that we want a whole country; that we do not want a divided country; that our society should, can and must be a pluralistic one in which all Panamanians respect themselves, and in which every Panamanian respects the ideas of other Panamanians. Regardless of the ideology that any Panamanian has, it deserves to be respected.

In this world in which we live, the negation of political islands is being achieved. Regardless of those political islands, the nations of the world are trying to understand each other. We must struggle to maintain our democratic structures, to maintain the constitutional structures, to maintain the judicial, executive and representative system which we have chosen and of which are truly proud because, for the first time in our history, we have a group which will issue the laws. This group represents the interests of the smallest communities of Panama, just as it represents the interests of the districts, the interests of the provinces and thus the interests of the nation.

However, our society must offer some conditions to maintain a climate of peace, and the principal condition must be that of respect. If a person has leftist thoughts, I sincerely believe that his leftist thoughts should be respected so that the leftist will respect the thoughts of a rightist. It is natural for human beings to choose the path they like best from among the various paths which constitute political science.

I believe that you all know, and the whole country knows, what type of government this is. It is a government which aspires to maintain and respect democratic structures. Democratic structures will be respected on the basis of understanding, respect for pluralism and the freedom of expression. This means that the Panamanians cannot only believe in what they wish, but can express whatever they wish. Naturally, it is our duty to educate the Panamanian people to think of that respect for representative, democratic and political institutions which the constitution fundamentally guarantees, which our history recognizes and which the government intends to carry out in a society in which different segments can walk together and--why not?--hand in hand.

We believe that as long as there is dialog, as long as there is understanding, education and a true climate of democracy, there is no reason to fear ideas which might seem strange to us. There is no reason to fear those whose ideological thoughts are different from ours.

Facing these persons in a climate of understanding, dialog and tolerance, we will be in a position to add and not subtract. We will be in a position to have on our side the immense majority of Panamanians on the basis of conviction, reason and explanation. That is what we want to ask from all sectors.

I wish to add that I hope this is interpreted correctly. I hope, I repeat, that it is interpreted correctly. I make this explanation because it is something I feel sincerely and must say. I could not remain tranquil if I did not say it. When we look at what is happening throughout the world, we see the North Americans continually negotiating with the Soviets on wheat and electrical appliances and the Chinese entering the world market and buying from many countries. They buy from Costa Rica, from Chile, Argentina and from many Latin American countries, while we still believe that if we use Chinese goods in our homes it might turn us into communists.

We must find the opening to the world which the world expects of us. We have a neutrality treaty which we expect every country in the world to respect. Therefore, we must also seek rapprochement. Let the record show that I am not speaking of ideological rapprochement or political rapprochement. It is the same type of rapprochement which the North Americans have promoted with the Chinese and which they have had with the Soviets for many years. It is a rapprochement which truly places us in a position to say that we are an open country with a canal, that we are a cosmopolitan country, that Panama really feels that it is a society which can be perfectly open to take advantage of its mercantile situation and its geographic situation, which are not the only advantages this country has, but just two of them.

We are also concerned with the other advantages, such as agricultural and industrial. However, these advantages should be "urbi et orbe"; that is, for our benefit, but also open to the whole world. I am certain that on the day we open ourselves as a country to that truly worldwide trade, the Panamanian businessmen, industrialists, banks and society will all benefit from that worldwide relationship which we must have someday. If, however, rather than a relationship such as I have described, we pretend to isolate ourselves because we cannot touch and we must go through a sort of cultural revolution of our own, which implies that our doors are closed to countries which profess X ideology, then we will neither benefit nor open ourselves, nor will we ever be able to feel proud to say that Panama is a whole country, that Panama is a politically independent country, that Panama is a country which is capable of having a friendship with every country of the world, respecting so that we will be respected, any ideology which any country has chosen.

AHUMADA, OTHERS COMMENT ON PRD FINANCING

PA181651Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 17 Nov 78 pp 1, 18 PA

[Text] It is definitely not in the interest of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] to receive funds from the Panamanian State Treasury because this would make it a lifeless, stagnant organization. You should imagine the PRD as a political organization that will act "as if it were in the opposition." These were the words of [Government Minister] Adolfo Ahumada, a member of the party's organizing committee, as he answered questions at a press conference yesterday afternoon to announce the first large-scale event to gather approximately \$90,000 in funds.

Some 1,000 invitations at \$100 each will be circulating nationally for a great banquet to be held at the Bellavista Salon at the Panama Hotel on Monday, 27 November, to honor Aristides Royo S., who will be the keynote speaker.

[Commerce and Industries Minister] J.J. Amado and [Colon Free Zone manager] Rey Montenegro, members of the PRD's economic committee, emphasized that this activity was a clear demonstration that the party wants to have an independent economic foundation. They added that such financing of party activities will tend to strengthen its democratic bases but that the PRD's democratic bases will not be influenced by the contributions of individuals or sectors.

It was also explained that while it is true that every dinner will cost \$100, activity will be promoted within the party to permit the participation of those who cannot pay for their tickets. In this sense, groups of PRD sympathizers will purchase several tickets and will donate them.

Ahumada also emphasized the development of the mystique of the PRD, a new "party which combines the interests of all national sectors capable of seeking social improvement at the lowest social cost."

Other sources of revenue from the dinner will be the sale of pennants and other souvenirs.

Those participating at the press conference were Frank Kardonsky, Leovigildo Gutierrez, Rey Montenegro, J.J. Amado, Adolfo Ahumada, Ovidio Diaz, Moises Licon, [National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives President] Victor Corrales Nunez and Rafael Moreno Saavedra.

Some reporters asked about the relationship between General Torrijos and the PRD and expressed doubts about the time government employees may use in promoting the party, and so forth.

In this regard, the former student leader and canal treaty negotiator answered that although it was true and well known to all that General Torrijos was the principal figure behind the PRD, it was also obvious that because of his sensitive job as commander in chief of the National Guard, he could not be the head of the party.

Regarding the time government officials spend on party activities and the use of government cars, Ahumada said categorically that the fundamental matter is not that it is the government employees' intention to use these resources and government time for party activities, but that it must be kept in mind that the PRD is a party that supports the present revolutionary process.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO OAS--The Panamanian Government has appointed Juan Antonio Tack as its new ambassador to the OAS to replace Nander Pitti Velasquez, who resigned. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 17 Nov 78 PA]

CUBA ACCEPTS NEW AMBASSADOR--The Foreign Ministry has received the approval of the Cuban Council of State for the appointment of Miguel Angel Picard Ami as the new Panamanian ambassador to Cuba. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Nov 78 PA]

NEW ARGENTINE, UK AMBASSADORS--Two new ambassadors, Argentina's Samuel Ballesterin and Great Britain's John Leslie Yoraph Sanders, presented their credentials to President Aristides Royo Friday. They were the first two to make such presentations to the chief executive since he took office Oct. 11. [Text] [Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 19 Nov 78 p 1 PA]

COSTA RICA

CARAZO DEFINES POSITION ON EXTRAGOVERNMENTAL RECRUITMENT

PA282047Y San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1740 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Communique released by Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio on 28 November 1978--read by announcer]

- [Text] 1. The national government thanks all citizens and associations which either directly or indirectly have expressed their support in connection with the current crisis involving the Nicaraguan Government.
2. Their support constitutes unequivocal evidence of the unity prevailing in Costa Rica and of the Costa Rican citizens' faith in institutionalism, freedom and democracy. It also constitutes irrefutable testimony of their love for their country.
3. By mandate of the Costa Ricans themselves and due to a constitutional and moral imperative, the national government is responsible for the nation's order and security. This obligation is unrenounceable and nontransferable.
4. The national government has the obligation, and thus it confirms it, of physically and legally defending the national sovereignty, the integrity of its territory and the lives of all Costa Ricans, as well as guaranteeing peace for the Costa Rican people. This mandate is equally unrenounceable and nontransferable.
5. In accordance with our laws and with the authorization of our political constitution and Legislative Assembly, the national government has the necessary resources to fulfill its duties in the event of any emergency and will resort to this branch of government to obtain the necessary approval. In other words, everything will be done publicly and the autonomy and authority of other branches of government will be respected at all times.
6. The national government had adopted all precautions and provisions that current circumstances have made necessary in order to safeguard the country's sovereignty and integrity as well as the safety of Costa Rican citizens.
7. Therefore, the national government announces to Costa Ricans that no group or citizen is entitled to recruit persons privately. This activity is the concern of the national government and in no way can it be transferred to any citizen or group. Neither will the government permit actions outside the law concerning such a delicate matter, even if the objectives sought are very noble and honorable. Therefore private groups organized under those conditions will not be able to. [sentence as heard]
8. The government knows very well that under any circumstances it will have the moral and physical support of all Costa Ricans and of the country's various associations. Nonetheless, it also knows that concerning this issue, actions must be very carefully thought out and conducted strictly in accordance with the country's prestige in maintaining peace, its civil traditions and its juridical and moral position, all of which constitute its main force.
- San Jose, 28 November 1978
- [Signed] Rodrigo Carazo, president of the republic

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RESTRICTS MILITARY EXPENDITURES

PA281403Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] The Legislative Assembly has imposed restrictions on the government so that military equipment can be purchased only with the approval of the legislature.

Shortly before midnight, the Legislative Assembly approved a National Liberation Party motion by which the executive branch cannot purchase armaments without the approval of the legislature. The motion was approved during a plenary session.

The motion was presented by Deputies Arroyo, Castillo, Fernandez and Solano. It states that any purchase of military equipment by the government must have the prior approval of the Legislative Assembly.

PEASANTS MOVING AWAY FROM NICARAGUAN BORDER AREA

PA290131Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1950 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 28 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--The peasants living near the border with Nicaragua in the area of Los Chiles, on the Costa Rican side, have begun moving to towns away from the area because of the fighting on the Nicaraguan side.

The farmers have said that they have practically abandoned the area because Nicaraguan Air Force planes bomb it daily. They are also afraid of being taken for Sandinist National Liberation Front guerrillas and attacked.

The peasants assert that heavy battles between the National Guard and the Sandinists take place everyday on Nicaraguan territory.

Concluding, the residents of the border strip indicate that Nicaraguan planes and helicopters fly across the border everyday, although flying only a short distance across the border, and this increases fears of incidents in the region.

The inhabitants of Los Chiles have been periodically reporting the sinking of boats carrying Nicaraguan Guardsmen on the part of the San Juan River that passes through Nicaragua but these reports have not been officially confirmed in San Jose.

RADIO RELOJ COMMENTS ON OAS MEDIATORS' FAILURE

PA290224Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Station commentary]

[Text] There is reason to believe that the international mediation commission comprised of OAS delegates has failed in Nicaragua. Its intentions are good, just and noble. It seeks to resolve the problem posed by the Nicaraguan Government through peace rather than violence. But this is not a problem based on differences between the people and the government. It is a problem created and sustained by a despotic, cruel and bloody regime supported by the United States for the past 42 years.

The international mediation commission has proposed an internationally guaranteed plebiscite and has warned that if the plan is rejected by Somoza and the Broad Opposition Front [FAC], its members will--no later than Thursday--take the first plane leaving for the United States. They will return to Washington and, as usual, the OAS will have failed.

The OAS has not been strong, solid or brave enough to ask Somoza to leave. If the president is permitted to resign under the political constitution, as the OAS claims, why does it not tell Somoza to do so?

If the plebiscite had sufficient international guarantees--which it does not--free elections in Nicaragua would do away with Somoza in less than 2 hours. Elections held freely and without Somoza would help to very clearly establish Somoza's total failure. But, if the OAS has been afraid of Somoza, who can guarantee that once he has lost the elections, Somoza will really leave Nicaragua?

The 72 hours will elapse without a solution to the Nicaraguan problem because the OAS has not had enough courage to demand through its international commission that Somoza leave, which is really the only alternative.

International pressures are now being exerted at a time when reports are being released in Washington that Cuba is helping the Sandinists. What these reports are doing is creating total aversion toward a great revolutionary movement--that of the Nicaraguan people against the Somoza dynasty.

We sometimes think it would be interesting to hold a plebiscite in Nicaragua. Under what kind of guarantees? That the Nicaraguan National Guard will no longer exist and that the Nicaraguan public force will also include the opposition. Under what guarantees? That Somoza and his government will no longer be in Nicaragua. Only then would we be able to talk about free elections with international guarantees. But will that happen? We do not believe it is possible.

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT FIGURES--The new 118-million-colon credit program announced by the National Bank of Costa Rica will permit grants to small, medium and large producers. Fernando Mata, National Bank project section chief, reported that a loan has been secured from the Inter-American Reconstruction and Development Bank to promote traditional agricultural activities and nontraditional agriculture and livestock activities. The interest rates will be 8 percent for small producers and 12 percent for medium-sized and large producers. The payment deadline will be a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 12 years with a grace period of up to 5 years. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Nov 78 PA]

DISCOVERY OF MINERAL RESOURCES--The discovery of (chromite), one of the most valuable minerals for the metallurgy industry, in the El Murcielago Estate will reportedly open new prospects for the national economy. A study conducted by government engineers and geological technicians reported that there is (chromite) in this land, which was expropriated from General [Anastasio] Somoza. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Nov 78 PA]

UNITED BRAND'S POLICY--In a message sent to President Rodrigo Carazo, the president of United Brands stated that the Compania Bananera de Costa Rica promises to give the state 45 percent of its profits in accordance with the administrative contract that will be signed. The message also stated that the company will withdraw the suit it had begun against the government to remove the \$1 tax on each box of bananas that is exported from Costa Rica. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 78 PA]

EL SALVADOR

SUBVERSIVES, POLICE CLASH; FOUR PERSONS KILLED

PA282348Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2320 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Nov (LATIN)--Security forces which were searching for the kidnaped director of the Phillips Company in El Salvador today staged a gun battle with five youths who took refuge in the home of a priest. The incident left at least four persons dead. The authorities did not say whether the clash in La Providencia suburb, southwest of San Salvador, was connected with the kidnaping of Fritz Schuiteman.

The authorities said that four persons were killed but did not identify them, although residents of the area--which was cordoned off by the police--said that one of the dead was Father Ernesto Barrera Motto, in whose home the youths took refuge. The police destroyed the house with bombs in answer to the shots being fired from inside the house, eyewitnesses questioned by this agency said. The shooting lasted approximately 3 hours, the sources said.

Some residents said the youths were members of the Popular Liberation Forces, one of the most important guerrilla groups operating in El Salvador. At this point, however, police have surrounded the entire area and refuse to release any information. The security forces ordered reporters to remain at a distance from the scene of the clash.

Schuiteman, the fourth foreign executive kidnaped in the country this year, was abducted on Friday by several persons as he was driving home.

GUATEMALA

EMBASSY IN COSTA RICA TO HANDLE NICARAGUAN AFFAIRS

PA291301Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1226 GMT 29 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Nov (LATIN)--Guatemala will take charge of Nicaraguan affairs in San Jose, Costa Rica, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced.

A ministry spokesman reported that Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez sent a message dated yesterday to [Costa Rican Foreign Minister] Rafael Calderon Fournier in which the Guatemalan decision was announced.

BRIEFS

MINES OFFICIAL APPOINTED--The Guatemalan Government today appointed Gustavo Adolfo Barrios as new assistant secretary for hydrocarbons, mines and nuclear energy. [Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 17 Nov 78 PA]

CONDECA REPRESENTATIVE--The Foreign Ministry has announced that Col Marco Tulio Ruiz has been appointed head of the Guatemalan delegation to the permanent council of the Central American Defense Council (CONDECA). [Guatemala Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Nov 78 PA]

MONETARY COUNCIL OFFICIAL--Guatemala City, 22 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan economist Oscar Alvarez has been elected executive secretary of the Central American Monetary Council. He replaces Salvadoran Tomas Medina. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0007 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA]

NEW AMBASSADORS--Guatemala, 7 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry announced today the appointment of Gen Doroteo Monterroso as new ambassador to the United States, replacing Jorge Lamport Rodil. Jorge Palmieri has been appointed ambassador to Mexico, replacing Monterroso. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1925 GMT 7 Nov 78 PA]

MINES SECRETARY, POSTS OFFICIAL--Col Jorge Luis Monzon Suarez was sworn in on Tuesday as secretary of mining, hydrocarbons and nuclear energy, an office recently established by the government. He was sworn in by Jorge Garcia Granados, secretary general of the presidency. Capt Augusto Mejia Bardales was sworn in as director general of posts on Tuesday. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 2 Nov 78 p 7 PA]

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA REJECTS ANY POSSIBILITY OF LEAVING POWER BEFORE 1981

PA290019Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2344 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[By special AFP correspondent Beatrix Denis]

[Text] Managua, 29 Nov (AFP)--Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza today discarded any possibility of abandoning power voluntarily, with or without the plebiscite, before 1981.

In an exclusive interview with AFP, the president emphasized: "I gained power through an election and I will leave power with an election."

Somoza received the AFP correspondent at his presidential office in the "Bunker" while his cabinet and his party's (Nationalist Liberal) leadership discussed the international mediation commission proposal for which the commission set a 72-hour deadline for both parties to accept or reject a plebiscite.

The Nicaraguan chief of state said the commission so far has proposed a referendum and he could not accept that.

It must be pointed out that this is the first time the president himself has actually rejected the commission's proposal, as all previous rejections had been made by his party.

Somoza added that "if General De Gaulle held a referendum in France, it was because his government was the result of a referendum. In the case of my government, I do not have to follow the French pattern because my regime is a presidential one."

He said that his party, despite any doubts, is a socialist party of the left, of the democratic left, he explained.

Somoza described as "masochists" those who fear the possible physical elimination of his opponents in the FAO in the event the international mediation commission should fail and consequently leave the country. The president insistently denied having violated the Nicaraguan Constitution since, he said, his government was legally established and that this is accepted by "Moslems and Christians."

Nevertheless, he added that he would accept any suggestion, including the mediators' proposed plebiscite [as received], as long as he is not required to relinquish power. Somoza said that, in his personal opinion, a "dictator is he who violates the constitutional rights of the citizens and this is not the case with me."

He also denied the existence of 4,000 political prisoners in Nicaragua, as charged by his opponents. "They may have been referring to Fidel Castro because he does have them" he said.

Concerning an eventual war with Costa Rica, Somoza said that Nicaragua would never start one and that his neighbors would never start one directly. However, he said that "Costa Rica has been encouraging and helping my enemies, the Sandinists."

Further on Somoza said he expects relations to improve after a new Venezuelan Government is elected in a few days. Regarding the United States, he said that although it is true it is not supporting him at present, "it is also true that the United States does not want me to be violently overthrown."

Commenting on his government's current difficulties in obtaining U.S. loans, Somoza said the credits President Carter has denied Nicaragua are governmental but that the private banks in the United States continue to support him "because my credit is good."

Finally, the president said that the Somoza dynasty did not begin and will not end with Anastasio Somoza Debayle, referring to himself, because there never "has been a dynasty by that name in Nicaragua."

FAO TO STUDY MEDIATION COMMISSION PROPOSAL, ULTIMATUM

PA282015Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0458 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[By AFP correspondent Beatrix Denis]

[Text] Managua, 27 Nov (AFP)--The Broad Opposition Front (FAO) today decided to study the proposal--which includes a 72-hour ultimatum--presented by the international mediation commission. The proposal calls for a plebiscite to organize a democratic government in Nicaragua.

The decision surprised observers since the FAO announced on 21 November that it was breaking completely with the commission because a document presented by the commission at that time did not consider the resignation of President Anastasio Somoza as a step prior to the plebiscite.

Apparently, the opinion of the representatives of the United States, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala that the resignation of the chief of state is not unconstitutional was the new element that produced a change in the FAO's attitude.

The governing Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN), however, maintains a different position. It has stated that a plebiscite controlled by the international commission would challenge the right of their leader, Anastasio Somoza, to remain in power, and this, PLN spokesmen have noted, would be "a violation of the constitution."

The FAO decided to study the new document of mediators William Bowdler, Emilio Ramon Jimenez and Alfredo Obiols during a meeting at the headquarters of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement. The FAO has stated that the 72-hour ultimatum will permit a consultation of the 14 organizations that comprise the front to try to obtain a unanimous position regarding the acceptance or rejection of the plebiscite.

Meanwhile, Eduardo Chamorro, a spokesman for the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, has emphasized this unity by pointing out that his party's position is, and will continue to be, that of the FAO. He remarked that the new document presented by the commission is interesting since it acknowledges the possible withdrawal of the president. "We are not the problem. The problem is Somoza," he said.

Rafael Cordova Rivas, president of the Democratic Liberation Union (UDEL), has stated that the commission's document is "historic" because it reflects the international opinion that Somoza must go if his party obtains a minority of votes in the plebiscite.

Thus, a new waiting period has been opened in the midst of growing tension among Nicaraguans who are watching the political pendulum in anguish.

In its communique to the FAO and the PLN, the commission notes that if it does not receive a firm answer before the deadline it will consider its mission in Nicaragua concluded.

DEFENSE MINISTER CRITICIZES COSTA RICA, VENEZUELA, PANAMA

PA281744Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1231 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 28 Nov (EFE)--Nicaraguan Defense Minister Guillermo Noguera today, Tuesday, accused the governments of Venezuela, Costa Rica, Colombia and Panama of "intervening in Nicaragua's domestic affairs." Noguera made this charge in Santiago.

Noguera, who is making a "good will" tour through Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile, met yesterday with Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos, to whom he presented a report on his country's situation.

According to Noguera, Costa Rica is "an aggressor." He also said that the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) has found a sanctuary in Costa Rica from which to unleash its campaign of violence.

He added that the FSLN is "a Marxist terrorist group trained in Cuba, Venezuela, Panama and Colombia."

"Most Latin American nations," he added, "have observed the principle of nonintervention in the Nicaraguan problem, but such has not been the case with Venezuela, Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia."

Regarding the demand for President Anastasio Somoza's resignation, he said this is "a groundless demand, since under our constitution no one group can claim that it represents the people."

SPOKESMAN REFUTES REPORTS ON NATIONAL GUARD CASUALTIES

PA281736Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1640 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 28 Nov (LATIN)--Col Aquiles Aranda, an official army spokesman, said that it is untrue that Sandinists have killed 13 National Guardsmen. He said that psychological warfare is being waged abroad against the government. We are not allowing it to prosper here, he said. He was referring to reports released abroad regarding an alleged clash in which it was reported that 14 members of the Nicaraguan Army died.

"There have been no more clashes since the one that occurred in Bocas del Sabalo, on the southern bank of the great lake, early Sunday morning in which two persons sustained slight wounds. The area is being searched in order to gather arms left behind [by the Sandinists] before fleeing to their sanctuary in Costa Rica," Colonel Aranda added.

ECONOMIC SITUATION 'WORST' IN COUNTRY'S HISTORY

PA282336Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1222 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 28 Nov (LATIN)--As a result of the armed clashes that took place in September, Nicaragua's economic situation is the worst in the country's history, according to a study conducted by the Central American Business Administration Institute (INCAE).

The study, which was released yesterday, says that the state of the country's economy is worse than the one observed in the country after the earthquake that destroyed Managua in December 1972.

Although INCAE has estimated the material damages resulting from the September uprising at only 464 million cordobas (\$66 million), the reduction in the gross national product as a result of the uncertainty among investors and national and foreign banks has been estimated at over 2.1 billion cordobas (\$300 million) for 1978. In regard to the future, the country's losses may be incalculable, particularly if the political situation does not return to normal, the INCAE analysts have indicated.

According to the data compiled in the affected cities (Managua, Leon, Chinandega, Matagalpa, Masaya, Jinotepe, Diriamba and Esteli) by INCAE Professor Dr Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, between 1,600 and 2,000 civilians died in September. Other data included in the report state: Between 780 and 2,000 persons were injured; from 40,000 to 50,000 persons were affected by material losses; 170,681 square meters of construction were damaged and from 100 to 180 houses of low-income families were either damaged or totally destroyed.

The municipal archives in Chinandega and Esteli, including the files on properties and persons, were also destroyed.

Infrastructure works were considerably damaged, including streets and energy, water and telephone services.

The most affected city was Esteli, located 164 km north of Managua. There the rebels resisted air bombings and infantry attacks for 15 days.

The number of shops damaged totals 616; industrial plants, 19. Only 65 percent of the damages are covered by insurance.

On the basis of this information, Prof Pedro Belli analyzed the economic implications and Prof Francisco Mayorga lectured on the financial prospects for 1979 during a seminar which was attended by representatives of the public and private sectors.

According to Professor Belli, had the political disturbances not occurred--meaning President Anastasio Somoza's heart attack, journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's assassination, two strikes and the September armed clashes--the country would have experienced extraordinary economic growth in 1978 as a result of an excellent winter season and the high prices of the principal export products.

Instead, he added, the country has experienced the most disastrous year in its history.

According to Professor Belli, if conditions are normal in 1979, the gross national product may amount to 16.167 billion cordobas at 1977 prices. Statistically speaking, this might represent the highest percentage increase in the country's history. But since there will not be an increase this year, rather a decrease, the truth is that the country's economy would only be partially recovering, he explained.

Nonetheless, taking into consideration the fact that the country's political situation has not yet been resolved, if 25 percent of the products that are just now being harvested (coffee and cotton) were lost, "repercussions would be catastrophic. National production would hardly reach 1978 levels, particularly considering, as has traditionally been the case in times of recession, that the government will decrease its public investments."

For his part, on analyzing Nicaragua's financial prospects for 1979, Professor Mayorga said that as a result of the high foreign debt incurred during the last 5 years, 1979 will be the first year in which Nicaragua will have to face strong [fuertes] amortization payments.

"If foreign loans are not obtained due to political circumstances, then the renegotiation of the foreign debt is clearly the essential condition in order to be able to alleviate the situation," he added.

Professor Mayorga stressed that "the current level of indebtedness and the prospective prices of export products point toward the need for a change in the economic scheme. A situation involving abundant imported goods and dollars, such as was the case from 1974 to 1977, is no longer conceivable. The artificial nature of that abundance will have to be countered with restrictions and austerity in 1979 and in the years ahead."

"As a result of the high foreign debt of the past 5 years and of the political complications," Professor Mayorga concluded, "very difficult years lie ahead."

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO GUATEMALA--The Foreign Ministry reported this morning that Fernando Sanchez (Eudocia) has been appointed ambassador to Guatemala to replace Edmundo Meneses Candanedo. [Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0010 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA]

MILITARY COURT CHANGE--Col Francisco Manzano Reyes has replaced Col Dr Nicolas Valle Salinas, Managua's police commander, as superior member of the military court investigating the plot uncovered in early October of this year. The other members of the court installed yesterday are: Lt Col Marcial Lopez Rivera, Lt Col Enrique Jacoby, Maj Roger Moreno and military prosecutor Lt Col Arturo Vallejos. [Managua NOVEDADES in Spanish 19 Nov 78 pp 3, 22 PA]

VI. 29 Nov 78

C U B A

Q 1

LINK SUGGESTED BETWEEN PEOPLE'S TEMPLE LEADER, CIA

PA281734Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Recently disclosed details of the personality of Jim Jones, the leader of the People's Temple religious sect who provoked the death of 914 persons in the Guyanese jungle, suggest the possibility that Jones was linked to the CIA, the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States. This suspicion was voiced by Sebastian Carlos (Rocha) and Marcos Aurelio (Rojas), who were Jim Jones' neighbors in Belo Horizonte, the capital of Minas Gerais, Brazil, where the sect leader lived for 8 years.

Meanwhile, analysts are wondering why Jim Jones had relations with influential U.S. officials such as senators, mayors, and governors, and even Vice President Walter Mondale and the wife of the U.S. President, Rosalynn Carter.

Meanwhile, the Guyanese press began publishing various opposition sectors' criticism of the decision of Forbes Burnham's government not to appoint a committee to investigate the Jonestown slaughter which took the lives of nearly 1,000 Americans in the Guyana jungle.

JAMAICA REPORTS CUBAN CRITICISM OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

FL271611Y Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Cuba has accused the human rights organization Amnesty International of prematurely releasing a document on its prisons which it says was also distorted by the international press. Last year Cuba gave Amnesty International leaders special opportunities to examine the situation in its prisons on a personal and unofficial basis. Few communist countries have given similar opportunities to the London-based organization. A senior Cuban official said the statement by Amnesty this month on Cuban prisons was originally a working document sent to Cuba for discussions following last year's investigations. The official said it was sent in preparation for a further visit to Cuba by the Amnesty president, which he requested for the middle of this year. However, instead of waiting for the visit to take place Amnesty is reported to have gone ahead and published the document.

STATEMENT BY ROA KOURI SUPPORTS POLISARIO

FL251328Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1318 GMT 25 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban permanent representative to the United Nations, has reaffirmed our government's support for the just struggle of the Western Sahara people, led by POLISARIO, for their self-determination and independence.

It also has been learned that Jose Luis Perez, Cuban delegate to the UN political and security committee, has asserted that every attempt to justify production of the neutron bomb is the most cynical and inhumane action of our times.

Maria Cecilia Bermudez, Cuban representative to the UN colonial affairs committee, has condemned the maneuvers of the administrative powers [as heard] to maintain their exploitation of natural and strategic resources in the many territories still subject to a colonial system. The Cuban delegate also urged the United Nations to demand that these powers fulfill their obligations.

U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS PRONOUNCEMENTS CRITICIZED

FI282152Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2125 GMT 28 Nov 78 FL

[Text] The United States lacks the morality to speak out on human rights, stated Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban UN permanent representative, in a meeting held by the United Nations to discuss the topic of human rights. Roa Kouri noted that it is impossible to talk about human rights and at the same time support the cruelest Latin American dictatorships, citing Nicaragua and Chile as examples.

In an evident allusion to the United States, Roa stated that it is impossible to claim to be a champion of democracy and at the same time support the South African racists, deny the right to live in their own territory to the Palestinian people and term an anathema the Puerto Rican right to be independent. Raul Roa recalled the events in Vietnam which, by resisting imperialist aggression, made it impossible for the United States to attack other peoples, using Vietnamese territory as a base of operations.

Roa stated that he has heard statements on human rights by those who 40 years ago established in Nicaragua the cruelest tyranny ever seen in Latin America. He denounced the United States for discriminating against millions of North American blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans and Latins in general and for allowing the Mafia to rule at will, spreading gambling, pornography and drugs.

Those who are preparing to produce the neutron bomb and praise its effects because it is lethal only to human beings, while leaving intact factories, buildings, mines and other material wealth lack the morality to speak out on human rights. Roa Kouri added: Those who struggle against apartheid, colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism are the ones who can speak out on human rights.

Related Comments

FI281244Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Once again Cuba has called on the international community to condemn the genocide committed by the Anastasio Somoza dictatorship and to denounce its accomplices and accessories. Ambassador Raul Roa Kouri, permanent Cuban representative to the United Nations, in speaking to the commission on social, humanitarian and cultural affairs called for a stop to the mediated and antipeople solution which aims at helping those who benefit directly from exploiting the Nicaraguan people.

ANGOLAN LEADER VISITS COMMITTEES FOR FINANCE, PRICES

FI282314Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2239 GMT 28 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rocha Dilolua, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Politburo and second deputy prime minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, has visited the offices of the state committees for finance and prices. Francisco Garcia and Santiago Riera, presidents of the state committees for finance and prices, respectively, received Rocha Dilolua, who heads the delegation that is participating in Havana in the second meeting of the Cuban-Angolan mixed commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

The Angolan delegation exchanged viewpoints and was interested in aspects of the work of these committees with whose leaders the delegation held a cordial dialog.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ANGOLAN CULTURE AUTHORITIES

FL282121Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2042 GMT 28 Nov 78 FL

[Text] In Havana City a special agreement has been signed between the Cuban Culture Ministry and the Angolan national cultural council. The document was signed by Culture Vice Minister Antonio Nunez Jimenez and Ana Maria (Pegado Nogueras), chief of Angola's culture international exchange office. The document provides for Cuban assistance in theater, dancing, plastic arts, music and museums to that fraternal country's counterpart organization as well as the possibility of offering scholarships to Angolan students.

Nunez Jimenez referred to the satisfaction of this opportunity for a cultural meeting with one of the great and strong roots of Cuban culture after centuries of absence. For her part, Ana Maria (Pegado) noted the existing relations between the two peoples which serve as a foundation for the agreement.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE OFFICIAL VISITS CDR OFFICES

FL282246Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2235 GMT Nov 78 FL

[Text] (Tomas Diaz Costa), commissioner of (Trinidad de Lemba) and member of the Central Committee of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe, has visited national directorate offices of the Committees for Defense of the Revolution, CDR. He was received there by Jorge Lezcano Perez, member of the PCC Central Committee and national coordinator of the CDR, who briefed the visitor on the CDR.

INTERVIEW GRANTED BY PRESIDENT PINTO DA COSTA

FL282057Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Nov 78 FL

[Interview granted to Cuban newsman by Sao Tome and Principe President Manuel Pinto da Costa a few minutes prior to his departure--recorded]

[Text] [Newsman] What impression do you take with you of the visit to our country?

[Pinto da Costa] Prior to our visit to Cuba we had good knowledge of Cuba. We knew about Cuba's attitude toward other revolutionary countries, that Cuba was making great efforts to support the struggle of peoples fighting for freedom. Aside from that, we also knew that Cuba was making a great effort to build the socialist society. When we arrived in Cuba, we were profoundly impressed in learning that a small country such as Cuba, despite all the efforts made to fulfill its internationalist duty, has also made an enormous effort at the national level--at least in all the provinces we have visited--to build the technical, material and cultural foundation to guarantee the success of the society it wants to build. We are greatly impressed not only by the successes in building the socialist society but that Cuba is creating a type of man, a really friendly man, a new man who will guarantee the continuation of the Cuban revolutionary process. The Cuban leaders have given primary attention to not only purely technical education but also political, ideological and technical education, which is an example of basic education in forming future generations which would be capable of guaranteeing the development of a process, the continuity and continued improvement of a process which will lead Cuba to truly build a society where man will be a real friend of man.

[Newsman] Comrade President Pinto da Costa, we thank you for your statements for the Cuban television audience and wish you a bon voyage and happy return to your fatherland.

FIDEL CASTRO BIDS FAREWELL TO SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE DELEGATION

FL281121Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has bid farewell to the president of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and of the liberation movement of that country. Members of the Politburo, Council of State, Secretariat, numerous members of the Central Committee, top officials of the armed forces and other officials went to the airport yesterday to bid farewell to the Sao Tome leader and his entourage which arrived in our country on 8 November to pay an official visit to our country.

BENIN MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL271247Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Nov 78 FL

[Text] A delegation from the People's Republic of Benin, headed by Col Richard Rodriguez, chief of the general staff of the national defense forces and minister of equipment of that country, has arrived in Cuba on an official visit in response to an invitation from the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]. The visitors were received at the airport by Division Generals Senen Casas, first vice minister-chief of the general staff, and Abelardo Colome, FAR vice minister--both members of the Council of State, and Asela de los Santos, minister of education; all members of the PCC Central Committee. Also at the airport were Colonels Demetrio Montseny Villa and Gustavo Chui, both directorate chiefs at the FAR Ministry.

Col Richard Rodriguez and the rest of the members of the Benin delegation visiting us laid a floral wreath at the tomb of Gen Antonio Maceo and his aide, Capt Francisco Gomez, at the Cacahual mausoleum. A military ceremony was held there with the participation of a unit made up of representatives of ground troops, revolutionary navy and the antiaircraft defense and revolutionary air force, and the band of the greater Havana garrison.

As part of its schedule the delegation visited the monument to national hero Jose Marti in the Plaza de la Revolucion; the Museum of the Revolution and the Granma memorial.

Talks Held

FL271907Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Nov 78 FL

[Excerpt] Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and the Council of State and first vice minister-chief of the [Revolutionary Armed Forces, FAR] general staff, today held talks with Col Richard Rodriguez, People's Republic of Benin chief of national defense forces general staff and minister of equipment.

The other members of the visiting Benin delegation participated in the talks which were held in a friendly atmosphere. Div Gen Abelardo Colome Ibarra, members of the Council of State; and Brig Gen Sixto Batista Santana, chief of the FAR Central Political Directorate, both of them vice ministers of the FAR and members of the PCC Central Committee, participated in the talks.

Colonels Demetrio Montseny Villa and Gustavo Chui Beltran, chiefs of FAR directorates, also attended the talks.

The delegation from the People's Republic of Benin arrived in our country in response to an invitation of the FAR Ministry.

ICAP HOSTS SOLIDARITY ACTIVITY WITH ETHIOPIA

FL270351Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2333 GMT 27 Nov 78 FL

[Text] A solidarity activity with the fraternal people of Ethiopia was held this afternoon at the Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples (ICAP) in Vedado [Havana] with the participation of (Haile Kebede), charge d'affaires of socialist Ethiopia in Cuba.

In his remarks the Ethiopian diplomat discussed the achievements of the revolution that was initiated in 1974 and the fraternal assistance in the struggle against imperialism received from socialist and progressive countries, especially Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Answering questions of the people present, the Ethiopian diplomat announced that his country's youth are actively assisting in eradication of illiteracy in his country, which is at a high percentage, inherited from the feudal regime. He also announced that a group of Cuban students are taking postgraduate courses at Addis Ababa University.

Elsewhere in his remarks the Ethiopian charge d'affaires in Cuba referred to the strong ties of solidarity and brotherhood that exist between Cuba and his country. He cited as an expression of this friendship the trips to Ethiopia by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Mengistu Haile Mariam's trip to Cuba, as well as the existing cooperation agreement. He also explained the situation in his country where incorporation of women into the revolution is effective and the Ethiopian people are willing to fight against any imperialist aggression. Today's activity at ICAP was part of activities of the international week of solidarity with the Ethiopian revolution agreed upon last September.

14TH CTC CONGRESS COMMENCES IN HAVANA

Culture Minister Attends

FL281214Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Nov 78 FL

[Text] The Granma artistic brigade of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC--presented a spectacle of color and Cuban music within the framework of the activities of the 14th CTC congress which will be inaugurated today at the Lazaro Pena Theater of this capital. The gala function was held at the Karl Marx Theater and was attended by Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo and minister of culture, and other government officials. The 2,104 delegates and foreign guests to the worker forum enjoyed the beautiful spectacle presented by the Granma brigade.

WFTU Leader Praises Congress

FL281219Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Enrique Pastorino, secretary general of the WFTU, has stated that he highly values the 14th Central Organization of Cuban Workers congress as an event of great importance in the lives of Cuban workers and as a positive event in the struggle for international working class unity. The WFTU leader stated that it is a great honor and satisfaction to be in Cuba once again at the time this great event is taking place.

Report on Congress Opening

FL281616 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Services (Radio Rebelde and Havana television Channel 9) at 1356 GMT on 28 November begins live coverage of the 14th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) which is being held in CTC Lazaro Pena auditorium in Havana City.

Color television coverage opens with shots of the audience. At 1359 GMT the curtain is raised as the national anthem is played, showing the dais on which are Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Army Gen Raul Castro and other members of the PCC Politburo and top party and government officials. A poster of the CTC flag is to the viewers' left on the red backdrop, a picture of labor leader Lazaro Pena in the center and on the right is found the following slogan: For a 14th Congress in Support of Solutions to Our Vital Problems. Following this a recording of Lazaro Pena's remarks at the 13th CTC congress is played and black-and white film clips of Lazaro Pena are shown against the backdrop. When this ends at 1404 GMT a runner enters the auditorium with the CTC flag and is given a standing ovation. At 1407 GMT Agapito Figueroa goes to the podium and begins his opening remarks.

He begins by stating that "today in the year of the 25th anniversary of the brave action of Moncada, which made possible the definitive process of our true national liberation, and when the echoes of the successful 11th World Youth and Students Festival still ring, and just a few hours from commemorating the historic landing of the Granma and the 20th anniversary of our glorious socialist revolution and on the eve of celebrating the 40th anniversary of the glorious Central Organization of Cuban Workers, which from its founding had the devotion of all his life, enthusiasm and experience of the dear and unforgettable comrade Lazaro Pena [applause]. With loyalty to his memory and following the example of the heroes and martyrs who by their sacrifice made the brilliant present of the fatherland possible, we begin the working sessions of the 14th congress of our dear central trade union."

He goes on to cite some of the achievements and pledges made in honor of the CTC congress. He makes special mention of the 5 November Red Sunday, which was the day of special volunteer work day in salute to the CTC congress and the Soviet socialist revolution, citing some of the activities, including port activities, construction projects, help in the main agricultural-livestock projects, and in areas of goods and services. And he adds: "We want to point out in the opening remarks of our trade union event the extraordinary efforts made by 5,018 worker collectives which pledged and completed ahead of schedule their annual production of service plans in salute to the meeting of our congress." Then he discusses the sugarcane harvest, which he calls the "main activity of our economy," and gives a general overview of this industry. He goes on to cite examples in the areas of culture and sports.

Agapito Figueroa concludes by stating: "Comrade delegates, the militant solidarity of the revolutionary and progressive internationalist worker movement with the struggle being waged by the workers and all of our people to build a different society, which is genuinely democratic, intrinsically just, and once and for all freed from exploitation, lack of culture, discrimination, and the ominous imperialist tutelage is well known." He then mentions the approximately 89 visiting foreign trade union delegations attending the congress. He ends his remarks at 1429 GMT and states that the presidency of the congress has to be elected, adding that the organizing committee has drawn up a draft for the presidency of the congress, "a copy of which is in each delegate's pamphlet." Agapito Figueroa then asks the delegates to vote on the presidency selected by the organizing committee. It is approved unanimously. He then yields the podium to Rosario Fernandez to preside over the first session of the congress. She is a member of the CTC national committee executive secretariat.

She immediately yields the microphone to Francisco Travieso, chief of the CTC organization department, who reports on delegate attendance and composition of the congress.

He begins by stating: "2,104 delegates should have attended this congress," but "only 2,083 delegates are attending, which represents a 99-percent attendance rate. Composition by sex is as follows: 1,634 men, representing 78 percent, and 449 women, representing 22 percent. There are 1,118 delegates who are party members and 110 are Union of Young Communists members. Composition by age of the delegates is as follows: 229 are up to 29 years old, 1,529 are between 29 and 45 years old, 324 are between 46 and 60 years old, and 21 are over 60 years old. The average age is 40 years old. The oldest delegate is 75 years old and the youngest delegate is 18 years old. There are 1413 delegates from the trade unions at the local level, and 670 represent managers of intermediate and higher level trade union organizations. There are 37 who have not reached the sixth grade, which represents 1.8 percent. There are 363 who have a sixth grade education, representing 17.4 percent. There are 1,103 who have a worker secondary school level education, which constitutes 53 percent. There are 287 who have some university education, representing 13.8 percent. There are 163 who are midlevel technicians, representing 7.8 percent. There are 130 who have graduated from the university, which equals 6.2 percent. There are 1,096 delegates who are related to production, services and teaching sciences, which equals 53 percent. And there are 987 who are professional managers, representing 47 percent. There are 19 national work heroes, 14 are sugarcane harvest heroes, 35 have the Jesus Menendez award, 64 are internationalist combatants, 42 are internationalist workers, 96 have the 20th anniversary medal and 642 have the trade union leader diplomas for 5, 10 or 15 years." He ends his presentation at 1435 GMT.

Rosario Fernandez, who is also an alternate member of the PCC Central Committee, states that as shown by the report just presented "the norms have been complied with and having the necessary quorum in full validity we move that this congress is open. [applause] It now follows that the schedule and order of the day be submitted to the plenum, a copy of which is in your folders." This is approved unanimously by holding up their identification cards. She goes on to submit the "internal rules of the congress," which are also unanimously approved. Next she says that the working committees are to be elected, adding that "you have the proposal on who are to make up the different committees and have had time to study them and therefore it is not necessary to read them." These are then unanimously approved. The electoral committees are also presented for approval. They also are unanimously approved. The next item submitted for approval is the "proposal for those who are to make up the 10 committees which will discuss the draft resolutions and the other documents, which you comrades also have and have had enough time to study." This proposal is then unanimously approved.

Rosario Fernandez then yields to Roberto Veiga Menendez, secretary general of the CTC and president of the executive committee of the 14th CTC congress national organizing committee, to read the central report of the congress.

Roberto Veiga begins speaking at 1440 GMT. He stops at 1632 GMT for a half-hour break, starting up again at 1707 GMT. Reading a prepared text of the main report for 3 hours and 45 minutes, Veiga gives comprehensive details on activities and work of the Cuban labor movement since the 13th congress 5 years ago, covering all fields in which the trade unions are involved, such as organizational work, work efficiency, education for workers, health and safety, commemorative activities, participation in seminars for improvement of cadres, relations with the trade movement abroad. Along these lines he outlines how the labor movement has been fulfilling resolutions of the 13th CTC congress and first party congress. Veiga also discusses matters which the congress should examine and decide upon to improve work methods and management. While discussing various subject matters, Veiga also stresses areas in which the labor movement has been deficient.

Roberto Veiga ends the report at 1901 GMT, followed by a standing ovation. Rosario Fernandez then announces a recess until 2130 GMT with Jesus Escandel, CTC executive secretary, presiding. An unidentified television announcer states that domestic television will continue reporting on the 14th CTC congress through its national television news programs. With this, television coverage immediately ends.

Soviet Delegate Speaks

FL282301Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2238 GMT 28 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Aleksey Shibayev, chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, [AUCCTV], has made a special speech at the 14th congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] on behalf of the AUCCTV. The congress is being held at the Lazaro Pena auditorium.

The Hero of the Soviet Union and member of the CPSU Central Committee, after stressing the significance of the great Cuban labor congress, underscored the internationalist assistance which the Cuban people are offering peoples who are struggling for their liberation. He also emphasized the efforts being made by Cuban workers to build a socialist society.

After wishing success of the congress, Aleskey Shibayev delivered to the chairman of the congress a portrait of the leader of the world's proletariat and founder of the first socialist state in the world, Valdimir Ilich Lenin.

Pastorino, Hoffmann Address Congress

FL290026Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Nov 78 FL

[Mario Gonzalez Valdes telephone report from CTC congress]

[Excerpts] Moments ago the delegates to the 14th labor congress heard a speech by WFTU President Enrique Pastorino, in which he expressed WFTU's recognition of the Cuban labor movement. Pastorino highlighted the historic personality of Lazaro Pena, unquestioned leader of Cuban workers.

Further on the WFTU president stressed the valuable role which the Central Oorganization of Cuban Workers (CTC) plays within the WFTU. Enrque Pastorino also referred to the important resolutions on unity of action adopted by the international organization, including the universal declaration of labor rights which covers the important demands for labor freedom and fundamental rights of workers in the year of the 30th anniversary of the UN Universal Delaration of Human Rights.

Lastly, we heard the remarks of Karel Hoffmann of the Czechoslovak trade unions, who expressed pleasure over his participation in the congress, which he described as a great event for the Cuban proletariat.

WIDOW OF SALVADOR ALLENDE LEAVES FOR MEXICO

FL281143Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Hortensia Bussi, Allende's widow, has departed for Mexico, following a 12-day stay in our country at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee. During her stay in Cuba she met with Vilma Espin, member of the Central Committee and president of the Federation of Cuban Women, and with Manuel Pineiro Losada, also of the Central Committee and chief of its America Department--a meeting which also included Ulises Estrada, vice chief of the aforementioned department.

JAMAICA

COLUMNIST EXAMINES ISSUE OF MIG-23's IN CUBA

FL272010Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Nov 78 pp 14, 29 FL

[Vince Tulloch's "As I See It" column: "MIG's and Prisoners"]

[Text] President Castro of Cuba, on Wednesday, expressed surprise at the reaction of the Government of the United States of America over the presence in his country of about 20 MiG-23 jets supplied by the Soviet Union. According to President Castro, they were delivered to Cuba over one year ago and have been on service for over eight months. He added that the jets are for defence purposes.

What probably irked President Castro is the fact that the United States had resumed its reconnaissance flights over Cuba. Those flights were suspended when the smiling peanut farmer-President Carter took office and began his new-look diplomacy. President Castro on several occasions has revealed his respect for Carter, whom he believes to be a very good leader.

In fact, since Carter assumed power there has been a noticeable reduction of tension between the two countries. The chief stumbling block in the path of normalisation of relations between them is the continued presence of Cuban troops in Africa and to the number of political prisoners in Castro's jails.

On the African situation Castro has shown a strong determination to resist American pressure. This is understandable because it is a known fact that her involvement in Africa is due mainly to the wishes of the Kremlin and there is nothing as yet which indicates that Russia is ready to pull down the hammer and sickle in that part of the world. Not when there is the long drawn out conflicts in Rhodesia, South-West Africa and South Africa, where the stage is set for the East-West confrontation.

Returning to Cuba, it will be of interest to note that Castro has thrown the ball in the lap of the United States by stating that he is prepared to release about 3,600 political prisoners if the United States is prepared to accept them on their release. Interestingly, Castro has finally admitted that there are indeed political prisoners in his country. It will be interesting to hear the reaction of the local apologists who claimed that it is Western propaganda, when it is stated that they exist. Whether Castro is trying to gain a one upmanship on the United States or not, his gesture should be welcomed. It is to be hoped that the United States will react positively.

Our Concern Too

Let me return to the MiG jets. The possession of such powerful weapons by Cuba should be of more concern to us here in Jamaica. Afterall, we are only 90 miles away, well within range of these weapons of war. As far as the United States is concerned the presence of the Mig-23 jets could be the start of something big. The resumption of spying flights over Cuba is probably geared to find out if there are also any MiG-27's on location, as these, according to intelligence reports, are capable of carrying nuclear war heads and engaging in ground attacks.

Obviously, these would be supplied by the Soviet Union, which had agreed to desist from supplying Cuba with weapons that could be considered strategic following the missile crisis of 1962. The United States therefore retains the right to investigate any suspicious movements in Cuba which might threaten its own defences, and those of freedom-loving countries in the area.

Apart from that, there is another factor which gives us reasons to be very vigilant. Under the terms of the Treaty of Tlaltelolco, Russia pledged not to supply or help to equip any state in Latin America to be in a position to acquire nuclear weapons. It must be mentioned that Russia ratified the treaty in April of this year. Cuba is yet to do so.

Every effort must be made to keep this part of the world free from the direct menace of nuclear and other destructive weapons. Most countries of the region are not in a position to do much about it. It is therefore the responsibility of the United States to see that such regulations are not violated.

Unfortunately, the reported build up of Cuban troops followed the announcement that the United States had resumed the flights, for if Castro is to be taken by his words, his assumption that the U.S. intelligence must have known about the arrival of the jets about a year ago (and naturally they must have known) also applied to him. Certainly. If his intelligence service did not know he would have been informed by his friend Russia that the United States and Britain were carrying out naval exercises in the Gulf of Mexico and that so-called invasion force sighted off Cuba's coast was a figment of his imagination.

The real problem however is that one can not put too much confidence in the communists. Remember the fuss Russia made when she realised that the United States had beaten her in perfecting a neutron bomb? Remember the talk about the inhuman nature of the N-bomb. Well Russia now possesses one, pardon me, several. They are now respectable, I would imagine.

It clearly demonstrates that the reds are not to be taken for granted. The West must stay ahead or else soon the hammer and sickle could be flying from every pole available.

RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY SWEEPS BYELECTIONS

FL272015Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Nov 78 pp 1, 29 FL

[By GLEANER political reporter]

[Excerpts] People's National Party candidates swept to victory yesterday in all three by-elections in North-West St Andrew, Western St Mary and North-East St Ann in a contest characterized by a low poll. Polling ran at 34 per cent in North-West St Andrew and up to 50 per cent in West St Mary. The three successful candidates were Mr Carlyle Dunkley in North-West St Andrew, Mr Vincent Edwards in Western St Mary and Mr Vinroy Brown in North-East St Ann.

Indications from last night's preliminary count were that all six defeated candidates in N.W. St Andrew had lost their deposits, having failed to gain one-eighth of the total votes cast. And one candidate who ran in N.E. St Ann, Mr H. Charles Johnson of the Jamaica United Front, also lost his deposit.

In St Andrew and in the two rural constituencies the atmosphere was one of "extreme quiet." But for the presence of the police at polling stations and at times a handful of voters there was little sign that elections to the House of Representatives were in progress. The opposition JLP [Jamaica Labour Party] did not contest the elections in keeping with their boycott stance.

VI. 29 Nov 78

OTHER COUNTRIES

V 1

BOLIVIA

ADMIRAL MAESSE ROCA NAMED NEW NAVY COMMANDER

PY281245Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 38 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Rear Adm Santiago Maesse Roca, who held the post of Defense Ministry under secretary, has been appointed the new commander of the Bolivian Navy. As we reported earlier, he will replace Rear Adm Moises Vasquez Sempertegui. The day and hour for the swearing-in ceremony have not yet been announced.

GASTON LUPO SWORN IN AS AIR FORCE COMMANDER

PY281247Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Nov 78 PY

[Excerpt] After the cabinet meeting yesterday morning, President David Padilla Arancibia left for Miraflores general headquarters, where he swore in the new Bolivian Air Force commander, Gen Gaston Lupo.

GUYANA

\$2-MILLION TIMBER CONTRACT SIGNED WITH PRC

FL272005Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Nov 78 pp 1, 16 FL

[By George Baird]

[Excerpt] Guyana is to sell China 400,000 cubic feet of hardwood logs valued at \$2 million (G) in a big timber deal that would boost much needed foreign exchange earnings, and promote Guyana's less-known timber species on the international market.

The trial order will be shipped in March and July next year and depending on the performance of the logs, China is prepared to place much larger contracts in 1979 and 1980.

Agreement for the \$2-million deal, the largest export order Guyana has ever received from China since the two countries established trade relations, was signed at the Timber Export Board last evening.

It followed several days of negotiations between a two-member team from the China National Native Produce and Animal By-Products Import and Export Corporation and timber board officials.

The team came to negotiate the deal as a follow-up to the visit of Chinese Vice-Premier Keng Piao earlier this year when the possibility of the timber deal was mooted.

The visiting Chinese team comprised Chao Chin-ming (leader) and Chen Aikuo, Li Shih-fang and Ma Chun-kuang. Officials of the Chinese Embassy in Georgetown also participated in the negotiations.

A release from the timber board said the order was for mixed species of round Guyana hardwood logs which would be used in China for building construction and furniture manufacture.

The Chinese timber team also visited Guyana's hinterland and had talks with officials in both public and private sectors of the timber industry.